

crossroads

MSSU Alumni Publication Fall 2009

SUPER WORKOUT

New facility
generates
excitement

THE CRAZE

Plus...

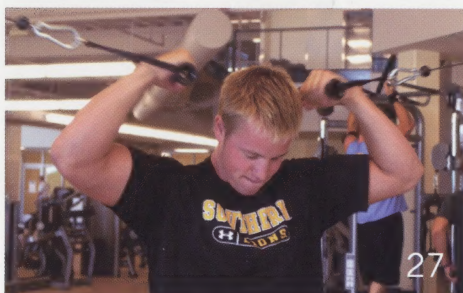
Homecoming '09

Historical video

Lion sports

And more!

crossroads contents



fall 2009

TOWER POWER

KGCS provides community with 25 years of excellence. 5

STUDENT VOICE

The Chart builds on its 70-year legacy. 9

MENTOR

Business professor helps students find work after graduation. 23

LION TALES

Alums find an entrepreneurial niche. 24

ANSWERING THE CALL

Always at the ready can mean a 911 for paramedics and their families. 25

IN THE PINK

SOPA secretary marks 10 years, cancer free. 31

LEGACY

Sallie Beard, former athletic director, retires after 37 years 33

NEW HOME

Southern welcomes Jared Bruggeman as the new athletic director. 35

SCHOLARLY ASSISTANCE

Single parents overcome obstacles to earn degrees. 39

MAGIC POTION

Professor takes chemistry on the road. ... 41

HIGH HONORS

High school band earns sweet reward. .. 43

ARTFUL DEEDS

Canvas changes lives in Africa. 46

GOING GREEN

MSSU color takes on new meaning. 47

CAMPUS NEWS

Foundation update 4

Southern News 20

Classnotes 52

Memoriam 53

ACADEMIC UPDATES

School of Arts and Sciences 17

International update 18

School of Education 19

School of Business 21

School of Technology 22

on the cover

Beimdiek Recreation Center 27

Southern's living history 12

Homecoming 2009 13

Lion sports 32-38

Ashley and Amanda Sauer, freshmen undecided majors, work out on the elliptical machines in the new Beimdiek Recreation Center. Cover illustration by Justin Cartwright, '09; photo by Jessica Schreindl, '10.



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

crossroads magazine is the official alumni
 publication of the Missouri Southern State
 University Alumni Association. The mission is
 to serve its readers by providing information of
 interest about the University, its alumni and the
 Alumni Association and by acting as a channel
 for Missouri Southern alumni as a "connection for
 life" with the University.

crossroads magazine is published two times a
 year by the Missouri Southern State University Alumni
 Association and the Department of Communication. It is
 mailed to current MSSU Alumni Association members and
 friends of the University. A select number of copies are
 distributed on campus each semester.

crossroads is written and designed by faculty,
 staff, students and alumni. The views expressed do not
 represent the student body, faculty, staff, administration
 or Missouri Southern State University.

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Dear MSSU Alumni and Friends:

Your Alumni Association has many excit-
 ing upcoming plans and updates.



First, our new vice president of develop-
 ment, Dr. Mark Parsons, introduces himself on page 4.

Homecoming 2009 was a beautiful weekend and is fea-
 tured on pages 13-16. "The History of Missouri Southern
 State University," a 30-minute video, debuted at Home-
 coming. A story on this project can be found on page 12.

The Beimdiek Recreation Center and Willcoxon Health
 Center opened this fall. Alumni members and friends can
 enjoy these excellent facilities at a special rate.

Legacy Day is scheduled for February 6. This year's
 theme is "MSSU — Your University." We welcome all
 legacies between the ages of 5 and 17 to come to campus.
 Reservations are required, so reserve your spot today!

Kansas City alumni will gather with other alumni at
 the annual MIAA postseason basketball tournament
 March 4-7, 2010. Check the MSSU Alumni Association
 Web site for details closer to the tournament dates.

Your association continues to grow and meet the needs
 of its constituents. Please feel free to drop me a line at
 Pound-L@mssu.edu or call 417-625-9355 with sugges-
 tions or comments. We always love hearing from you!

In Lion Pride,

Lee Elliff Pound, '86
 Alumni Director

Thank you, Lions! Three simple words, but they express our gratitude to all who sent such warm compliments on the spring 2009 issue of **crossroads**.

Many readers may not realize that Missouri Southern students do the majority of the writing, designing, photography and editing. The **crossroads** practicum not only gives these juniors and seniors one hour of credit, but they also gain experience working on a professional magazine. By the time they graduate, the future alums have glossy clips to add to their portfolios, thus giving them an edge in today's tight job market.

The success of **crossroads** comes not from me, the communication department or the Alumni Association, but from surrounding ourselves with talented individuals. It's a pleasure to be supported by these students, who learned their skills at Missouri Southern. Thanks to them, **crossroads** is a quality publication for our campus, friends and alumni. It's a magazine we can all take pride in!

Rhonda Clark, '00, **crossroads** Editor,
Assistant Professor of Communication

*Editor's Note: Lee and I wanted to share some of the comments about the spring 2009 issue of **crossroads**.*



I wanted to drop you two an e-mail and let you know how impressed I was with the Crossroads Magazine. When that came in, my first thought was, "WOW, we are just like the big Universities!" That was so informative and professional! It put such a positive foot forward for our University. Super work!

*Dr. Glenn Coltharp
Dean, School of Education*

Dave and I just had a chance to look at the newest issue of Crossroads. Wow! It looks terrific! It blends right in with the publications that we get from MU, Kent State, University of Kentucky, etc. Thanks for making MSSU look really good!

*Melissa Locher
Adjunct Professor, Teacher Education*

Great job on the latest publication of Crossroads! Paula Shirley & myself both commented that this issue really captured campus life and events of the university.

*Josh Doak, '03
Director of Student Housing*

I just picked up the new Crossroads magazine from my mailbox in the Comm. Dept. It looks great! I'm looking forward to reading it.

*Judy Stiles
General Manager, KGCS-TV*

crossroads staff for fall 2009:



Justin Cartwright, '09
Graphic Arts



Becky Husky, '10
Mass Communications



Emily Mergen, '11
Mass Communications



Andrew Pavlovic, '11
Mass Communications



Jessica Schreindl, '10
Mass Communications

Southern prepares for the next level

It was a great honor to be selected to become the vice president for development and executive director of the Missouri Southern State University Foundation. I feel extremely privileged to have the opportunity to be able to serve such a quality academic institution as Southern and to carry on the fine work that has been done by my predecessors at the Foundation.



There are several reasons I decided to accept the offer by the search committee. First of all, I was very impressed with the committee, the search process and the vision that was articulated, that being to create a new position of vice president and executive director to serve to advance the mission of Missouri Southern. This willingness to launch out on a new path for institutional advancement told me much about the nature of the institution and its desire to move to the next level of success. Second, I was also very impressed with the staff members whom I met during the interviewing process and felt that the quality of personnel at Southern is superb, and I look forward to working together with them. And third, it seemed to me that this position provided nearly a perfect match for my skill set and career experiences and thus would allow me to make a real contribution to the overall advancement program.

My career work experience includes 15 years as a United Methodist minister in Minnesota, practicing law in the area of estate planning, as well as 15 years in the field of development, primarily in higher education and for a church-related foundation. I have held leadership roles in planned giving at Hamline

University in St. Paul, Minnesota; Utah State University in Logan, Utah; and for the Minnesota Medical Foundation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. And, I also served as president and executive director of the California-Nevada United Methodist Foundation in Sacramento, California, which managed investments for churches and church agencies. I am hopeful that the breadth and depth of this experience, both in nonprofit management and fundraising, will provide a solid base for the work that lies ahead for me at Missouri Southern.

In terms of the future, one of the challenges ahead is to work to organize and design the new system for advancement in which I will be wearing two hats. It is my personal goal to do this job creatively and to put into place a system that reflects the best practices in higher education today.

That said, I am also aware it will take time to build the resources for the advancement and fundraising programs to achieve the goals of Missouri Southern. However, I am committed to making demonstrable progress in all areas of our work, whether it be public relations, alumni programs, fundraising and donor services, and recognition. I am also very committed to working collegially with my staff, the faculty and the administration to incorporate the best ideas that are offered to make this the most effective advancement program possible.

In summary, I am humbled by the confidence expressed in me by my selection to this position and will work very hard to make a difference through my service at Southern.

I look forward to making many new friends and personal connections in the days ahead.

— Dr. Mark Parsons, Vice President for Development and Executive Director, Missouri Southern Foundation

"I am humbled by the confidence expressed in me by my selection to this position and will work very hard to make a difference through my service at Southern."

Dr. Mark Parsons

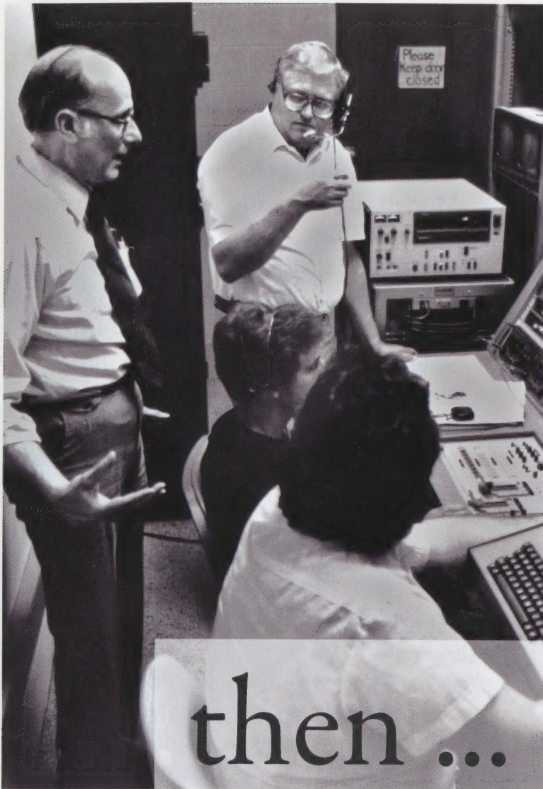
Vice President for Development and Executive Director of Missouri Southern Foundation

Southern prepares for the next level



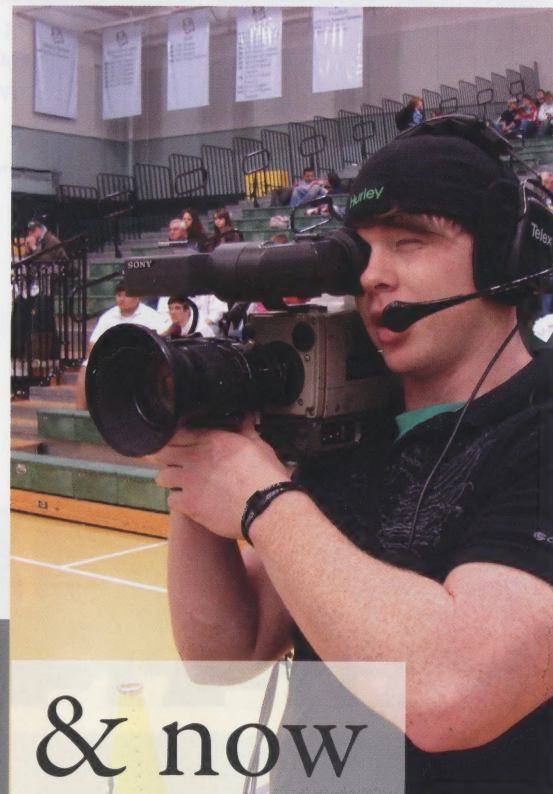
25 YEARS

From MSTV to KGCS, campus TV continues to expand on excellence. **(((ON AIR)))**



Student Cassandra Daugherty records action in the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center.

Casey Ellett, '09, like other Missouri Southern students, covers a live sporting event and gains hands-on experience in television production.



Richard Massa (left) and Dr. Robert Clark work with students in the control room in early days of the TV station.

Students and Clark prepare a broadcast in the 1980s.

In the fall of 1984, MSTV began broadcasting in the Joplin area. The station, now KGCS, is still going strong, producing not only programming for the community but graduates with television experience.

Dr. Robert Clark, retired professor and an adjunct instructor for the communication department, trained the first students at the station.

"I trained students during the summer, taught them to do interviewing and operate equipment in the studio," Clark said. "As soon as they were all trained and the equipment was installed, we started making programs. (We began) putting together programs to be aired in the fall."

Even with a new station to negotiate around, the staff did much of its own programming.

"At that time we had the Learning Channel filling the rest of our time," Clark said. "It was an interesting time, and sometimes it felt like it was more than you could do. But we always managed."

The new television station occupied the Mansion Annex that now houses Franklin Technology Center. The station moved to Webster Hall in 1992. KGCS also experienced a change in 1993 when Judy Stiles took over the role of general manager.

"I know under Judy's leadership it's (KGCS) doing very well, winning awards all the time for the programs they produce," Clark said.

Throughout the station's 25-year history, it has been beneficial to the students of Missouri Southern.

"I think it gives them (students) valuable hands-on experience," Stiles said. "That gives them an appreciation for what's involved, as well as the experience that will prepare them for when they graduate and go out there and start

working."

Clark also sees the value of working in KGCS for students, regardless of their major.

"I see it helps prepare them, because no matter what area they are going into in mass communication, more than likely they are going to have to do something with video, audio or both," Clark said. "Or even if they're print media people, they may end up doing something else."

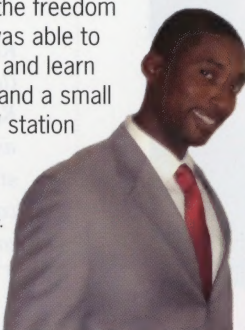
The digital transition in 2008 allowed KGCS to reach a larger coverage

area. Traditionally, the station has only reached people in the city of Joplin. With the digital channel, consumers in Monett, Lamar and Pittsburg are picking up KGCS.

"We are really a regional presence for the station and the university now, creating an awareness of Missouri Southern" Stiles said. "People who are in those communities in the outlying region, if they see Channel 22 or if they're watching us on one of the local cable systems, say, 'Hey, that's the Missouri Southern

"I remember the sense of ownership we as students had at KGCS because we were given the freedom of creativity. I was able to make mistakes and learn to fix mistakes and a small glimpse of a TV station operation."

Esdra Lamy, '00
Manager, Warner Bros.
Domestic Television
Distribution,
New York City

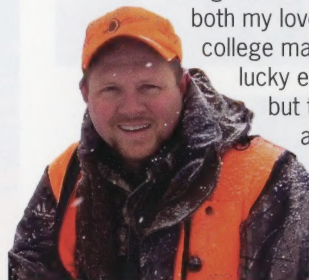


"A favorite memory would be some of the early MSSC football games we did. We edited raw footage from the press box and sideline cameras, then taped them and then broadcasted them later. I would sit in the control room and manually put up 'First and Ten' or 'Third and Eight' using the keyboard before each play. It was ancient technology compared to what ESPN does now."

Marty Oetting, '86, Director of Government
Relations, University of Missouri System

"My first experience dealt with hosting an outdoors TV show called 'Missouri Outdoors.' It's funny now looking back how little did I know I would be lucky enough to find a career that incorporated both my love of the outdoors and my college major. Sometimes folks get lucky enough to do one or the other but to do both is extremely rare and I feel blessed."

Warren Rose, '90
Outreach & Education Regional
Supervisor, Missouri Department of
Conservation



WHERE WE'VE BEEN ...



Missouri
Southern
Department of
Communication
is established,
headed by
Richard Massa

1980



MSTV begins
broadcasting on
cable
Channel 18.

1984



Dom Caristi is
named general
manager of
MSTV

1985



Station begins
airing St. Louis
Cardinals and
KC Royals games

Visions Unlimited
begins

MSTV becomes
K57DR-TV when
station upgrades
to low-power
broadcast signal
on
UHF Channel 57

1988



Station moves to
the new
Webster Hall

1992

station.' If they are involved in the sports we cover, they are getting coverage in their hometown."

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the station has made Stiles think of what the future holds.

"Television itself in the next 25 years is going to have a whole different face. With digital, we have one channel going out right now, but you can have multiple channels," Stiles said.

"So in the future, Missouri Southern could have one channel that's our little

programming channel, one that would be our classes. There are a lot of opportunities with what you can do with that multi-channel opportunity serving the community."

Students are always welcome to work in the station to gain some experience.

"I encourage anyone to take the opportunity to go down there and sign up to help with programming," Clark said. "If they're interested in producing programs, they can do that."

KGCS always has room for more stu-

dents in the studio.

"Come check us out. In some ways, even our students say we're the hidden secret of campus," Stiles said.

"I always wish more students would take the opportunity to get that hands-on experience. We do have quite a few broadcast majors, and they do the courses where they get the hands-on, but in the past, we had a lot of students just come in and say, 'I want to try it,' and volunteer."

— Stephanie Howard, '09

"We were the first class to work in the studio. We produced about 11 hours of original broadcasting per week. We learned all aspects of the television industry. As a communications major it gave me another aspect of the communications industry from which to draw. I've worked with virtually all aspects of the communications industry in one capacity or another. It was a great experience."

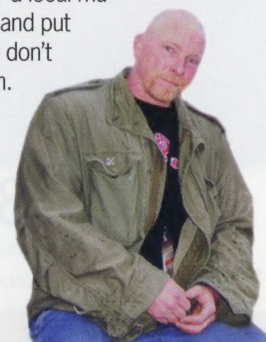
Daphne Massa, '85, Director of Alumni & Development, Drury University, Springfield, Missouri

"I became involved in 'Southern Sports Sunday' and produced my own country music videos show; I went on to win Producer of the Year at KGCS for that show. I remember gaining valuable experience and making some great friends along the way.

Bruce VonderHarr, '94
TV Production Teacher,
Joplin High School
Joplin, Missouri

"The thing I remember the most was being allowed the opportunity to do my own 30-minute show, 'Locals Only,' a local music montage that allowed me to be creative and put together everything from beginning to end. I don't think I'll ever have that type of freedom again. From day one, you were running studio cameras, learning how to direct, edit, write copy, all necessary tools once you join the broadcasting job market."

Jason Walsh, '02
Television Photojournalist & Producer for
WVEC-TV, the ABC affiliate in the Norfolk/Virginia
Beach region



Judy Stiles is named general manager of the station

K57DR-TV becomes KGCS-LP to reflect the station's support of Southern's International Mission

Dr. J.R. Moorman is named head of the MSSU Department of Communication

KGCS-LP begins broadcasting a digital signal and becomes KGCS-LD on UHF Channel 22

25th anniversary of KGCS

1993

1995

1999

2008

2009

Charting history

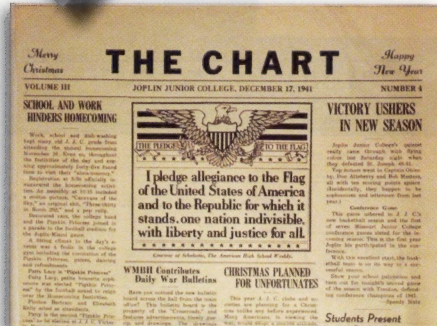
Southern celebrates 70 years of the campus newspaper, *The Chart*.



1938



2002



1941



2009



1995



1956



1968



1986



Dr. Chad Stebbins

How did *The Chart* get its name?

Kenneth McCaleb, who founded *The Chart* in November 1939, was asked this question in 1993. He responded: "I wanted it to sound dignified, like a college newspaper, and *The Chart* was the best I could come up with. Of course, I was taking algebra about that time; maybe I was thinking about mathematical charts."

Editor's note: Dr. Chad Stebbins served as editor-in-chief (1981-82) and adviser (1984-99) to The Chart. As The Chart celebrates its 70th anniversary, he offers his own recollections.

I still remember how intimidated I was upon joining *The Chart* staff as a freshman in 1978. I was intimidated by the editors, who despite their youth seemed to possess more journalistic acumen than the most seasoned reporters. There was the editor-in-chief, Clark Swanson, who had been appointed to the position the previous March as a freshman. Clark, who today heads a management consulting firm in Columbus, Ohio, went on to serve a record three years as *Chart* editor.

The managing editor was Susan Campbell, who would go on to become a popular columnist for the *Hartford (Connecticut) Courant* and the author of two books. The associate editor was John Roberts, an Army veteran who would later publish several newspapers in Missouri.

I was intimidated by the adviser, Richard Massa, who although only 46 at the time, seemed to be Joseph Pulitzer, Walter Cronkite and Ben Bradlee all rolled into one. I was amazed that Swanson would dare to argue with the crotchety Mr. Massa and not simply accept his word as gospel.

And then there was the tradition of *The*

Chart. The paper had this brash, confident attitude that screamed, "We're the best college newspaper in the state." And it was. *The Chart* had received that honor several times, winning awards for its in-depth investigations into such topics as pornography, satanic worship, homosexuality, massage parlors and teenage pregnancies.

Even the office, Room 117 in Hearnese Hall, was intimidating because I had never seen so many serious people crowded together in such a small space. In those days you could still puff a cigarette in all the campus buildings; Hearnese 117 reminded me of the stereotypical smoke-filled newsroom full of coffee drinkers. That small office served as the home of *The Chart* for 17 years, until Webster Hall opened in 1992.

Later, I learned of the rich tradition of *The Chart* — how Cleetis Headlee had advised the paper from 1948-67 and mentored such journalists as Ron Martin (former executive editor of *USA Today*) and Pam Johnson (former managing editor of *The Arizona Republic* and *The Phoenix Gazette*). Headlee, through her Survey of Journalism course and her high standards, laid a foundation for excellence that brought about the founding of the Department of Communication in 1980.

— Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82

Director of the Institute of International Studies

past & present The Chart Staff



Editors Clair Goodwin, Sue Winchester, Carolyn McCurry and Bob Bishop work on *The Chart* in the newsroom, 1960.



Editors Brennan Stebbins, Parker Willis, Nathan Carter and Luke Taylor work on *The Chart* in the newsroom, 2009.

TIMELINE

1937-38 — The first news of Joplin Junior College appears as a regular column in *The Spyglass*, the Joplin High School newspaper.

1938 — The single edition of a Joplin Junior College newspaper called *The Challenge* is published.

1939 — Editor Kenneth McCaleb publishes the first issue of *The Chart*, which would produce seven more issues in 1939-40.

1948-50 — Cleetis Headlee serves as sponsor of *The Chart*, along with Lela Smith and Lillian Spangler. Headlee later becomes the adviser.

1967 — Gene Murray replaces Headlee as adviser to *The Chart*.

1972 — Richard Massa replaces Murray as adviser to *The Chart*.

1975 — The Chart moves from the Guest House into Hearnes Hall 117 and wins a "Best in Class" award from the Missouri College Newspaper Association.

Photos depict people and events that defined The Chart and events it covered. Above, 1950s staff; Cleetis Headlee; Dr. Leon Billingsly leads a campus tour in the 1960s; Richard Massa.

1977 — The Chart switches from a tabloid to a broadsheet format.

1978 — The Chart installs its first typesetting unit, allowing it to begin weekly publication.

1982 — The Chart receives its first Pacemaker award from the Associated Collegiate Press.

1984 — Chad Stebbins replaces Massa as adviser to *The Chart*.

1990 — The Chart establishes a State Capitol internship, becoming the only student newspaper in Missouri to station a reporter in Jefferson City.

1992 — The Chart leaves Hearnes Hall Room 117 for new offices in Webster Hall.

Above, Connor Hotel collapse in downtown Joplin; Clark Swanson; murder at a Duquesne Road convenience store; state Capitol; Barn Theatre burns; Division II national softball champions.

1995 & '96 — The Chart is named the Best All-Around Non-Daily Newspaper in the nation by the SPJ for two years in a row.

1997 — The Chart begins publishing each issue in full color.

1998 — Kenneth McCaleb, founder of *The Chart*, establishes the McCaleb Initiative for Peace at MSSU.

1999 — Chad Stebbins replaces Richard Massa as director of the Institute of International Studies, and Genie Undernehr becomes assistant adviser to *The Chart*.

2001-04 — Rhonda Clark is *The Chart's* publications manager from 2001-04. The Chart is named the Best All-Around Non-Daily Newspaper in the nation by the SPJ for 2003.

2006-present — Former Chart editor and MCMA Journalist of the Year, T.R. Hanrahan, replaces J.R. Ledford as publications manager for *The Chart*.

2009 — The Chart celebrates its 70th anniversary as the campus newspaper for Missouri Southern.

70! YEARS!

Above, Gov. John Ashcroft visits MSSU; first full-color edition; T.R. Hanrahan.

72 years of Lion Pride

Missouri Southern celebrates its history with new video.

Thanks to two very important individuals, an alumnus and a friend of Missouri Southern, the university now has its history recorded and available on DVD.

"The History of Missouri Southern State University" was written and produced by Brad Belk and underwritten by David Jones, '63.

The video encompasses Missouri Southern from its inception in 1937 to 2009.

The video was underwritten in its entirety by Jones in honor of the following family members: E.O. and Virginia Humphrey; Richard D. Humphrey, '57; Charles J. Jones; Jeanne Jones; Michelle Jones Snelling; Roger C. Jones; and Darney M. Jones.

Jones was appointed to serve a six-year term on the MSSU Board of Governors by Gov. Matt Blunt on April 24, 2006. His appointment runs through August 30, 2011.

It easily could be said that Southern Green and Gold is in Jones' blood.

A Joplin Junior College 1963 grad, his connections to Missouri Southern run deep. He is the grandson of E.O. Humphrey, a member of the original Joplin Junior College faculty in 1937 and the school's first football coach. He coached the Lions' first season and later, in 1972, the E.O. & Virginia Humphrey Award was established. The award is presented annually to Southern's most outstanding student-athlete who exhibits the highest respect for the university, outstanding athletic ability, outstanding leadership, and respect for fellow teammates and students.

His mother, Jeanne Jones of Joplin, his brother and sister all attended Joplin Junior College. His father is the late Charles Jones, who also attended Southern. Former MSSU Director of Admissions Richard Humphrey is David's uncle.

After earning his associate and bachelor's degrees, he worked for the Missouri Department of Corrections as a probation

and parole officer in Kansas City. He then attended law school and earned his juris doctorate from the University of Arkansas.

He opened a law office in Joplin in 1972 before being appointed as an assistant U.S. attorney as a federal prosecutor assigned to the Kansas City-Springfield office, which oversaw the Joplin office.

He commanded Headquarters Company of the National Guard 203rd Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) based in Joplin and retired as a lieutenant colonel with 36 years of service. His community service is extensive.

Belk has been a practicing public historian for more than 20 years. An educator, archivist and conservator, Belk is serving his second term on the MSSU Alumni Association Board. As an active Board member, he spent more than two years researching, writing and editing "The History of Missouri Southern State University."

Belk has authored three hard-bound history books: *The American Photographic Series: Best of Joplin*, *Orley's Legacy-The History of Freeman Health System*, and *Murwin Mosler's Gift to Joplin*. He has also co-written two books featuring a compilation of historical essays. Belk also researches, co-creates and co-produces a series of award-winning historical documentaries for Ozarks Public Television.

The video is shown in all MIDS (freshmen orientation) classes at the Hempen House, the temporary location of the Alumni Association.

Students attend with their class, have refreshments and learn the important history of their alma mater.

This project is sponsored by the Alumni Association as an educational opportunity through the First Year Experience program.

Videos are available for purchase for \$5 each or \$7.50 to include shipping and handling. Contact the MSSU Alumni Association at 417-659-LION.

— Lee Elliff Pound, '86, Alumni Director



Deeper appreciation

I truly enjoyed the video at the Alumni Office. It was neat to see how MSSU has grown since the first fall semester of 1937. It made me realize how far we've come as a nation with the amount of people, specifically males, who currently attend college.

It was neat to see the old pictures from the Joplin Junior College at the Joplin High School building. I never realized MSSU has this much historical richness. Watching the video gave me a deeper appreciation and connection with Southern.

Now that I know the significance of the Sitting Wall in the Oval, I remember the men who died in WWII that attended MSSU when I pass.

The video also cleared up the names for all the buildings. I say the names every day but now I know who those people are and what they did to make Southern a better school. I never realized we've had two presidents visit the campus.

MSSU has grown tremendously since 1937, and I think it has a lot more growing room. Southern just added a brand new recreation center and is now working on a brand new health science building.

It is exciting to see these new buildings go up. Southern is a great school and has great things yet to come.

— Hannah Cartmill, '13
Freshman Nursing Major



Go green
for the
Go gold
for the



Above, the Lion Pride Marching Band leads the Homecoming 2009 parade through the Missouri Southern campus.

Left, Brylee Klotz, 2, displays her candy while her grandfather, Albert Klotz, holds her at the Missouri Southern parade on September 26.



Above left, Carrie Doll, '05, holds her daughter Ava, 2, as she waves to floats along the parade route. Above right, Courtney Atkinson, junior, marches and shows off her Lion pride. Below left, 2009 Outstanding Alumnus Gary Aggus receives some help with his honorary parade duties. Below right, a student watches the parade from a close vantage point.



Lions display their pride at Homecoming

MSSU couldn't have celebrated Homecoming with better weather this year and with a record number of alumni and friends participating in events.

Alumni and friends gathered in the recently renovated Connor Ballroom in Billingsly Student Center for the Friday night reception.

Tours of the Beimdiek Recreation Center and Willcoxon Health Center were provided by Director of Campus Life Darren Fullerton, '88, and Director of Recreation Services Leslie Willis.

The historical video, produced by Alumni Board member Brad Belk and underwritten by David Jones, '63, was shown in the new Phelps Theatre, which seats 150.

Saturday's brunch had approximately 200 in attendance and recognized the Hall of Fame inductees, Lion-Hearted Award recipients, and this year's Outstanding Alumnus, Gary Aggus, '76. The 2008 Outstanding Alumnus, Jack Brannan, '54, surprised the Alumni Association with a gift of a framed Joplin Junior College pennant.

Tailgates decorated the edges of Fred G. Hughes Stadium, with alumni and friends celebrating their Lion pride in the perfect football weather. The Hempen House, the current location of the Alumni Association, hosted two tailgate parties, including an All Greek Reunion. Greeks from across the decades returned to campus and shared stories.

KGCS and *The Chart* hosted reunion groups, celebrating 25 years of television and 70 years of print journalism at Missouri Southern State University.

The 1999-2000 men's basketball team met for the weekend and reconnected, sharing team stories and catching each other up on their lives. This team made it to the Division II Final Four in 2000.

Homecoming is a wonderful way to reconnect with our alumni and friends. Be sure to mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2010, scheduled for October 22-23, when MSSU will take on the Missouri Western Griffons.

— Lee Elliff Pound, '86
Director, MSSU Alumni Association

2009 OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS

Gary L. Aggus was born in 1953 in Pasadena, California. While still very young, his family moved to Joplin.

He attended schools in Joplin, graduating from Memorial High School in 1972 where he played varsity football, basketball and baseball. He then attended Missouri Southern State University where he graduated Cum Laude in 1976 with a BS/BA degree in marketing and management and an associate degree in computer programming.

While at MSSU, he played football on the 1973 and 1974 teams and was a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. He worked throughout his college career for Foremost Dairy in Joplin. Upon graduation, he was promoted into management.

He joined Hiland Dairy in Joplin in May 1984 and in 1985, transferred to Hiland Dairy's home office in Springfield, Missouri. Aggus moved up the ranks and was assistant general manager and general sales manager from 1993 to 2003.

In April 2003, he was named president and general manager of Hiland. In this role, Aggus directed the Springfield plant and manufacturing facilities in Norman and Chandler, Oklahoma; Fayetteville and Fort Smith, Arkansas; and Wichita, Kansas.

In 2006, Aggus was promoted to chief operating officer and president of Joint Ventures of Prairie Farms Dairy, in addition to his duties at Hiland. Today, Prairie Farms has annual sales of more than \$2 billion, consisting of 35 manufacturing facilities and 96 branch operations employing approximately 6,000 people in 14 states throughout the Midwest.

Aggus has served on many boards in the dairy industry. In 2006, he was honored by being inducted into the Missouri Dairy Hall of Honors.

Aggus married his high school sweetheart, Debbie Patterson. They reside in Springfield and have three daughters, two sons-in-law and two grandsons.



Above, a member of the 1999-2000 Missouri Southern basketball team sends a ball toward parade spectators. The team reunion was one of several groups that reconnected at Southern on Homecoming weekend.



Above, Kappa Alpha fraternity and Zeta Tau Alpha sorority members join forces for a Greek Homecoming float.

Below, the MSSU Alumni Association displays its gold medal of pride on its annual float.



2009 HALL OF FAME



Above, Southern Players, the campus club for the MSSU Theatre Department, won best float in this year's competition.

Below left, Queen Cocoa Young, Student Alumni Association, and King Levi Jett, Residence Hall Association, celebrate their victory at the football halftime ceremonies.



Above right, University President Bruce Speck greets the parade crowd with candy.

Below, (from left) Marvin "Red" O'Dell, '80; Cedric Florence, '96; Sonia (Blacketer) Eudy, '00; Jennifer Jimerson, '99; and Stephen Crane, '98, are recognized for their MSSU athletic accomplishments at the September 26 Homecoming game.



Stephen Crane, Baseball (1995-98):

Four-year player for the Lions in center field where he started in 196 of the 200 games he played in. He graduated in 1998 with a degree in marketing and is employed by Boyd Metals in Joplin, where he lives with his wife, Stephanie, and three daughters.

Jennifer Jimerson, Softball (1995-98):

A four-year starter for the Lion softball program and helped the team to 144-47 overall mark in her four years, that included three NCAA Regional appearances and an MIAA title in 1998. A 1999 physical education graduate, she works as a field training instructor with the Olathe Kansas Police Department.

Sonia (Blacketer) Eudy, Cross-Country/Track and Field (1995-99):

One of the best distance runners the Southern women's track and field team has ever had. She was the MIAA indoor and outdoor track and field champion in the 3k and 5k in 1998. She graduated in 2000 and is an elementary school teacher in Forney, Texas, where she lives with her husband, Robert Eudy, '00, and their three children.

Cedric Florence, Football (1991-94):

A four-year starter for the Lions in the defensive backfield where he helped Southern to a record of 26-15-1 during his four-year career. He graduated with a degree in economics and finance in 1996 and works with AT&T in Arlington, Texas.

Marvin (Red) O'Dell, Baseball (1976-79):

A four-year letterman from 1976-79 when the Lions won 90 games in his four seasons. A two-time All-CSIC first-team selection, O'Dell was an All-Area and All-American selection in 1978 and helped lead the Lions to a 24-16 record. He graduated in 1980 with a degree in physical education and was later selected to play on an NAIA All-Star team that toured the Far East and played U.S. Army teams. He is self-employed and lives in Carthage, Missouri.

Master's program allows flexibility

The Missouri Southern School of Arts and Sciences has figuratively broken new ground by adding its first graduate program, the master of arts in history. The origin of this program dates back three years, when the social science department was actively involved in administering a federal grant titled Mastering American History. The participants in this grant were teachers, primarily from southwest Missouri, who were interested in receiving a graduate degree in American history. The number of teachers who applied for participation in this grant was so significant that many teachers were denied access to the program.

This interest prompted the social science department to conduct a survey in the spring of 2007 to assess interest in a hybrid MA program. The majority of the program was to be taught using distance-learning methodology with supplemental classes on campus. The targeted audience was teachers and other concerned constituents, specifically museums and other historical agencies in southwest Missouri. Of the 105 respondents, 95 percent felt there was a demand for a flexible graduate program, and almost 65 percent responded that they either would, or might, be interested in pursuing a degree through the program.

In the fall of 2007, a memorandum of understanding was drafted between Missouri Southern and the University of Missouri-St. Louis to begin offering the master of arts in history

degree starting in the fall 2009 semester. This collaborative degree program will offer a single class per semester during the 2009-10 academic year and increase to six hours per semester beginning with the 2010-11 academic year. All classes will be taught using distance-learning methodology supplemented by on-campus meetings. The decision to develop a hybrid program rather than a traditional on-campus class arose from the need to meet a market demand that did not exist at any other college or university. That said, students wishing to attend traditional classes on the UMSL campus is an option also available to students who may then transfer those courses into their program.

The inaugural class offered in this program is Regional History: Westward Expansion, taught by Dr. Louis Gerteis, UMSL professor of history. The spring's semester class will be American Foreign Policy in the Twentieth Century, taught by Dr. Steve Wagner, MSSU associate professor of history.

The initial application response has been good, and one of the first students admitted to the program is a recent graduate of Missouri Southern. Since this is not a cohort style program, students may apply for admission beginning with any semester during the academic year. We are proud to be in the forefront of education by offering the first hybrid MA in history. Individuals interested in this new opportunity should contact the MSSU Social Science Department.

— Dr. Richard Miller, Dean
School of Arts and Sciences



Andrew Schesser and Brittany Golden participate in the MSSU History Day competition in spring 2009. Each spring, Missouri Southern sponsors the event, which attracts students and teachers from school districts throughout the southwest Missouri area.

— Photo courtesy of
Mindy Estes

Bringing the world to the campus

Students at Missouri Southern State University experience the world in a unique way. The university designates every fall semester to the study of one country or region of the world. This way, students experience four or five different cultures by the time they graduate, even if they are unable to participate in one of MSSU's numerous study abroad programs.



Fall 2009 is the Canada Semester. Previous semesters

focused on Germany (2008), China (2007), France (2006), Mexico (2005), Russia (2004), Cuba (2003), India (2002) and Japan (2001). During each of these semesters, some 40 to 60 events give MSSU students a flavor of the country's art, music, literature, theater, history, government, geography, business, educational system and technology.

The countries selected must be vital to the U.S. and important players on the world stage. For example, you are not likely to see a Malta Semester, a Liechtenstein Semester, or even an Australia Semester. But you will have a Brazil Semester in fall 2010.

Despite some initial indifference when we first announced that Canada would be the focus in fall 2009, the campus and community have responded quite enthusiastically. A concert by the Newfoundland folk rock band Great Big Sea drew 1,000 people to the Taylor Performing Arts Center on October 5.

"Taylor hasn't been so full for quite a long time," said Mari Winn, editor and publisher of

the *Joplin Independent* online newspaper.

A September 21 visit by an officer from the renowned Royal Canadian Mounted Police was another highlight of the Canada Semester. Inspector A.F. O'Donnell gave talks on the history and legend of the Mounties, their modern policing methods, and the challenges of serving hundreds of Aboriginal communities. He also toured the facilities of the Anderson Justice Center and met with faculty and students of the criminal justice administration department.

Other events have included the United States premiere of the Canadian play "Emily Carr" by Southern Theatre, an all-Canadian concert by the Southern Symphony Orchestra, the showing of a dozen Canadian films, and programs on *Anne of Green Gables*, the popularity of ice hockey in Canada, and wildlife management in the Nunavut territory. In short, we've tried to offer something for everyone.

MSSU students now have a better understanding of Canada's importance to the U.S. — how the two nations trade more than \$1.6 billion in goods and services every single day, how the U.S. imports more barrels of crude oil from Canada than any other country, and how Canada boasts the 10th largest economy in the world. They can also name a Canadian writer, recognize Inuit art, tell you who is regarded as the country's national treasure (Emily Carr), and identify the province (Quebec) that in 1995 narrowly rejected a referendum to secede from Canada.

— Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82

Director, Institute of International Studies



The Newfoundland folk rock band Great Big Sea performs for a 1,000-member audience October 5, 2009, in Taylor Performing Arts Center. — Photo by T. Rob Brown, '93

Inset photo, Dr. Chad Stebbins (right) with Inspector A.F. O'Donnell of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Different areas promote healthy living

Kinesiology, recreation and wellness, and athletics — some confusion and misconceptions (on campus and in the community) exist as to the role of each of these areas at Missouri Southern State University.



Each has unique functions and responsibilities. Some uncertainty is understandable: We share facilities, all athletic coaches also teach in the kinesiology

department, and several student-athletes are seeking degrees in the kinesiology department.

Kinesiology is an academic department housed in the school of education that offers two degrees: bachelor of science in education, physical education major; and bachelor of science in health promotion and wellness.

Approximately 220 students are seeking degrees in the kinesiology department. The department also contributes by offering lifetime wellness and physical activity courses, which fulfill the health and wellness requirements of the core curriculum. These courses provide MSSU students with the knowledge and skills to live healthy, active and productive lives.

Students who earn a degree in physical education have met all MSSU Teacher Education requirements, program competencies dictated by DESE/NASPE, and are certified to teach K-12 physical education. Many of these candidates desire to coach athletic teams and will also seek health certification.

Health promotion and wellness candidates have varied career interests. Some pursue the nonclinical track, which includes 15-hour business and nine-hour psychology components. Upon completion of the program, these graduates may seek professional opportunities in many settings (fitness-wellness centers, personal training, corporate wellness, public health, community health-wellness). The clinical-track option includes the science courses needed to pursue a career in a clinical or hospital setting

(physical therapy, occupational therapy, athletic training, exercise physiology). All health promotion and wellness candidates must complete a 400-hour internship upon completion of their coursework.

The MSSU Campus Recreation and Wellness Program is in student services and provides opportunities for students, staff and faculty in a nonacademic setting. Darren Fullerton, director of student life, and Leslie Willis, director of campus recreation and wellness, lead the program, which is responsible for the administration of five programs: wellness, intramural sports, aquatics, outdoor adventures and open recreation.

The Missouri Southern Department of Athletics, led by Director of Athletics Jared Bruggeman, strives for student-athletes to receive a quality experience in both the classroom and in their athletic pursuits. Women's teams include basketball, volleyball, softball, soccer, cross-country, and track and field. Men's teams include basketball, football, baseball, golf, cross-country, and track and field. Approximately 350 student-athletes compete for Missouri Southern in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association Conference in NCAA Division II sports.

So ...

If you are interested in joining the Lion-backer Booster Club, you need football tickets, or you need a volleyball schedule, contact the MSSU Athletics Department.

If you are interested in intramural racquetball, need the swimming pool schedule, want a personal trainer, or would like to know the Beimdiek Recreation Center hours, contact the MSSU Campus Recreation and Wellness Program.

If you have questions concerning a kinesiology class, would like to teach physical education, or are interested in a career in health promotion and wellness, contact the MSSU Kinesiology Department.

— Dr. Pat Lipira, Head, Kinesiology Department

Kinesiology Department

Dr. Pat Lipira: Department head
Degrees: Two degree paths available.
Contact: Call 417-625-9316.

Campus Recreation & Wellness

Darren Fullerton: Student Life
Leslie Willis: Campus Recreation and Wellness
Contact: Call 417-625-9392.

Athletics

Jared Bruggeman: Director
Programs: All Lion sports that compete in the MIAA as NCAA Division II teams.
Contact: Call 417-625-9574.

'09 FACULTY SERVICE AWARDS**15 years (1994-present)**

Michael D. Fletcher, Professor, Biology
Deborah J. Pulliam, Professor, Teacher Education

Trina J. Scott, Professor, Criminal Justice

Patricia D. Vavra, Assistant Professor, Kinesiology

20 years (1989-present)

Charles (Bud) L. Clark, Associate Professor, Music

Robert L. Corn, Assistant Professor, Kinesiology; Men's Basketball Head Coach & Assistant Athletic Director

E. Scott Cragin, Associate Professor, Marketing & Management

Dennis R. Harmon, Professor, Mathematics

Anne M. Jaros, Professor, Theatre

John S. Knapp Jr., Professor, Geophysics

William A. Kumbier, Professor, English & Philosophy

Gerald T. Schlink, Professor, Biology

Vikki J. Spencer, Professor, Teacher Education

25 years (1984-present)

Beverly A. Block, Professor, Head, Department of Marketing & MIS/
Business Education

James F. Brown, Professor, English & Philosophy

Eillen Godsey, Professor, Learning Center Director of Learning Center

Janice Holmes, Associate Professor, Teacher Education

John P. Messick, Professor, Biology

Chad D. Stebbins, Professor, Communication; Director, Institute of International Studies

30 years (1979-present)

Val A. Christensen, Associate Professor, Art; Coordinator, Spiva Art Gallery of MSSU

Dale W. Simpson, Professor, English & Philosophy; Head, Department of English & Philosophy

Doris A. Walters, Professor, English & Philosophy

35 years (1974-present)

James E. Gilbert, Associate Professor, History

James M. Gray, Professor, Business

Melvyn W. Mosher, Professor, Chemistry

**Legacy Day '10 set for February 6**

Gather up your future Lions and plan to attend Legacy Day 2010. The event runs from 2:30 to 5 p.m. February 6 on the first floor of the Taylor Education Building.

Fun and educational games will inspire children between the ages of 5 to 13. Campus tours for Lion legacies, ages 14-17, will showcase Missouri Southern.

For information or to register, please call 417-659-LION. Reservations are required.

Forensics competes at Creighton

The Missouri Southern Forensics Squad competed in the Creighton University Double-Up tournament in October at Omaha, Nebraska. A total of 56 Lincoln Douglas competitors from 14 universities represented 10 states at the tournament.

Team member Valerie Melton, senior public relations major from Mt. Vernon, Missouri, earned an individual speaker award, placing third among the 56 participants.

In varsity, Rayce Lashley, sophomore communication major from Carthage, Missouri, and Kyle Buzzard, junior political science major from Lamar, Missouri, barely missed elimination qualifications.

Kelly B. Larson, associate professor of communication, is the forensics director.

MSSU inducts Alpha Chi members

More than 100 students were initiated into the Missouri Iota Chapter of Alpha Chi, a national scholastic honor society, at Missouri Southern State University during ceremonies on September 27.

To be eligible for the organization, juniors or seniors must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.7 or higher.

Alpha Chi is a coeducational society whose purpose is to promote academic excellence and exemplary character among college and university students and to honor those who achieve such distinction.

Students joining Alpha Chi can expect several benefits of membership. Each inductee receives a recognition pin and a membership certificate. Each member is eligible to participate in the society's activities.

Alpha Chi has existed since 1922 and has been affiliated with the Association of College Honor Societies since 1955.

Administrative changes announced

Missouri Southern State University President Bruce Speck announced in September that Rob Yust, '81, will serve as interim vice president for business affairs, beginning in January 2010, when Dr. Terri Agee transitions from her administrative post to a faculty role in the Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration.

Yust was interim vice president for business affairs in 2007 while Agee served as acting president. He was named to his present position as assistant vice president for business affairs in February 2008. He previously served as treasurer of the university for 10 years.

Jeff Gibson, '80, will fill the post of interim assistant vice president for business affairs beginning in January 2010. He also will continue his duties as director of budgeting and operations, a position he has held since August 1995.

Lion numbers rise in fall 2009

Enrollment at Missouri Southern State University was up for the third consecutive semester. Enrollment for the fall 2009 semester was 5,702, up 8.3 percent from one year ago, according to Dr. Delores Honey, assistant vice president for assessment and institutional research.

The number of credit hours in which students are enrolled also increased 7.6 percent, a jump of 5,195 credit hours, to 67,902.

Southern has instituted several programs to assist with student retention.

MSSU's First-Year Experience office is dedicated to assisting students with the transition from high school, starting with freshman orientation, university experience class and other events to help students become familiar with university life and expectations. In addition, Missouri Southern was recently recognized as a veteran friendly school, offering assistance to service men and women as they pursue their educational goals.

— Stephen E. Smith, '77

Faculty refine the school's mission

To understand the nature of the world, you must understand business. Currently, business decisions are at the center of the storm. Financial decisions made by individuals,



mortgage companies and investment firms helped create a global financial collapse. Economists and financial regulators crafted strategies to hopefully avert the second great global depression.

In addition, most major social concerns seemed to focus on business areas. These include unemployment, loss of the U.S. manufacturing base, health care expenses, national debt, and fears of deflation and inflation.

The Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration is developing strategies to help students and communities adjust to new global realities. As part of our Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs accreditation review, SOBA formed a faculty team to reassess our mission. In this process, we are refining our vision, mission and core value.

SOBA's core values provide a focus for student and faculty activities. Our faculty will continue to provide high quality teaching and advising to ensure the core value of learning and research. This helps address the employability of our graduates by ensuring they can effectively communicate, understand business functions, work effectively in groups, think critically, be proficient in applying technology and quantitative methods, and help students engage in scholarly activity with our faculty.

The core value of community implies that graduates know the global economic, social and cultural forces that impact the U.S.'s long-term competitiveness. We help students gain employment advantages by giving them the experience to make a successful transition to business careers. We also help our local community by promoting and fostering economic development.

Innovation keeps the U.S. at the top of global competitiveness. SOBA faculty use current technology and pedagogies to support learning and scholarship.

Given the behavior of some individuals, it is no surprise that social responsibility has grown in importance. SOBA expects students will demonstrate knowledge of ethical decision-making. We also provide the opportunity to participate in social responsibility programs and expect our graduates will demonstrate professionalism and integrity in the performance of duties.

VISION: We endeavor to be recognized by the community as the leader in business education.

MISSION: The mission of The Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration is to prepare our students to be responsible, productive professionals who serve in the global business environment. We will fulfill our mission through quality undergraduate and graduate programs in a student-centered learning community.

CORE VALUES:

Learning and research: We promote an environment that facilitates and supports learning, collaboration, and communication by both faculty and students directed at scholarly activity and the application of knowledge.

Community: We respond to the needs of our global community by preparing responsible, productive citizens for leadership roles and by providing services that support economic development.

Innovation: We cultivate a spirit of entrepreneurship by developing new offerings and activities and by incorporating technological and pedagogical advances that support the learning environment.

Social responsibility: We believe that faculty and students should engage in activities that foster social and ethical awareness and respond to domestic and international needs for sustainable societies.

Continuous improvement: We commit to continually assess and improve our current programs and activities that support our mission, vision and core values.

SOBA faculty will continually assess courses and curricula to remain current in the field and meet students' needs. SOBA will aid in faculty development so we can engage in strategic planning to look at new curricula and programs to match business community needs.

To understand the changing nature of the world, our students must understand the constant global shifts in business. SOBA faculty will keep students at the forefront of business thought. We encourage alumni to provide us with feedback on our new efforts.

— Dr. Brad Kleindl, Dean

Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration
Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs

Choose to serve as a career path

The events of September 11, 2001, changed America's outlook and demand for law enforcement personnel. Even though the memory of this epochal event fades with time,



some events bond themselves within our consciousness so deeply that they change forever the way we perceive our world. The eighth anniversary of the tragedy this fall placed an emphasis on how people depend on criminal justice and law enforcement personnel to protect their lives and property.

Missouri Southern State University continues to be a leader in the area of public safety education and training. The criminal justice department is one of the largest programs on campus, with more than 500 undergraduate majors. Both law enforcement and criminal justice industries offer exciting and fulfilling career opportunities. With new advances in forensic technology and an ever evolving legal landscape, you can be assured a career in criminal justice or law enforcement will truly be the experience of a lifetime.

Careers in criminal justice or law enforcement encompass a myriad of professional areas. Job opportunities are expected to increase among all levels of government and in the private sector. Police officer, corrections, private investigator, fish and game warden, Homeland Security, global security, DEA and FBI agents, forensic specialists, juvenile court specialists, child abuse and neglect investigators, division of social service, youth correction specialists, crime analysts, paralegal, victim advocates, and probation and parole are just a few of the

employment opportunities for those with a criminal justice degree. These employment opportunities in the criminal justice field have spurred an increase in the number of women seeking this degree, with 55 percent of Missouri Southern criminal justice majors being women.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts a 6 to 31 percent increase in employment opportunities among all areas of the criminal justice field through 2016.

Selecting the right criminal justice career requires reliable information about the opportunities that exist in the industry. Missouri Southern criminal justice faculty provide aspiring professionals with current, reliable and informative career information and job descriptions designed to help make an informed decision when selecting a career in criminal justice or law enforcement. The criminal justice department offers a master's, four bachelor's degrees, and one associate degree, along with four minor emphasis areas.

Missouri Southern makes it possible to fit education into your schedule and offers incredible support for its online programs for the associate, bachelor's and master's degrees. The same professors who teach the course on campus also teach the online course. This ensures the quality of the online curriculum.

And whether students attend class online, on campus or a combination of both, they will enjoy one of the most interactive, intuitive learning experiences available. Visit the Mills Anderson Justice Center or our Web site at www.mssu.edu/technology/CJA/home.htm to learn more about how to start a career as one of our nation's finest criminal justice professionals.

— Dr. Tia Strait, '85 & '93, Dean
School of Technology

John Karriman (left), adjunct defensive tactics instructor, demonstrates a take-down maneuver with Ryan Miller, senior criminal justice major, during the day law enforcement academy October 12, 2009, at the Anderson Justice Center.



Simple gesture, good futures

Business professor helps students prepare career paths.

Terry Marion, professor of management, finds the end of the day as a time to do what counts — helping students. Marion's love for helping students began when he started teaching before moving into college career counseling, a position he held for five years. The counseling passion led him into 12 years of human resources at Eagle-Picher Technologies, although his roots brought him back to Missouri Southern.

While the idea of being an instructor again was great, it wasn't enough; he soon began doing career counseling for Southern students during his off time.

"If all I am to do is teach for 12 hours a week, I'm not earning my pay," said Marion. "Students have a greater need than just their class work or just going to class."

Marion put his skills to use and began developing a database of business people. The database contains about 300 people, what Marion jokingly calls his Christmas card list.

"I've always been connected to the industry. I started out there many years ago, and I would say that's how I met so many people," said Marion. "I would say it's just natural for me to make contacts."

As years passed, Marion's networking paid off. Eventually, businesses began contacting him.

"I've done so much of it over the years, I've been hired by a few outside firms just to refer students," Marion said.

He believes this is because he doesn't just throw any available student's name out as a potential candidate.

"I'll tell a student if they're interested to send me a resume," said Marion. "I just can't broadcast it to everybody."

Marion helped 2001 business management Southern alumna Lisa Olney land an internship.

"He was able to set me up with Smith Foods here in Joplin so that I could learn all aspects of HR to make sure it was truly what I wanted to go into," Olney said.

While she was in school, Olney said the advice and theories Marion told her were helpful and true. "He did provide lots of advice prior to graduation in regard to what I need to look for when searching for a job, and he was always handy when I needed a contact at a business," she said.

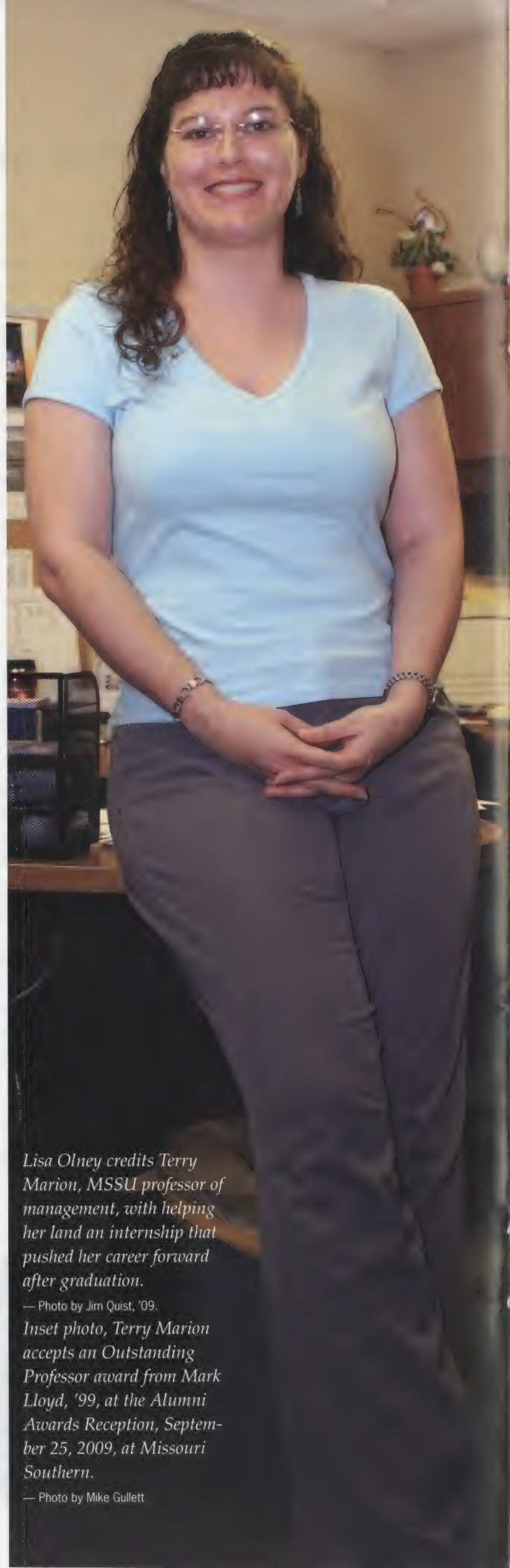
"I can remember a comment he made the first week of one of my classes and that was if you were a nontraditional student you would get more out of his class than a traditional student, and now that I have graduated, I understand what he means. Working in HR and just business in general is easier to understand models and case studies once you've been out in the work force actually doing the job."

Olney works as a benefits administrator for Eagle-Picher Technologies, where Marion worked many years ago.

Marion makes students do much of the legwork themselves, but he is always there when advice is needed before and after graduation.

"I just saw a need," he said.

— Tosha Shanks, '09



Lisa Olney credits Terry Marion, MSSU professor of management, with helping her land an internship that pushed her career forward after graduation.

— Photo by Jim Quist, '09.

Inset photo, Terry Marion accepts an Outstanding Professor award from Mark Lloyd, '99, at the Alumni Awards Reception, September 25, 2009, at Missouri Southern.

— Photo by Mike Gullett

Lion Tales

By Becky Husky, '10



Cameo Gerdes, '96, (left) and Laura Dudley work with their parents, Crystal and Bob Harrington, to make Columbia Traders a successful business venture. Bob, '98, and Crystal purchased the Joplin, Missouri, restaurant in 2008 after forming the Harrington Family Business LLC. — Photo by Becky Husky, '10

THE HARRINGTONS

What: In November 2008, Bob, '98, and Crystal Harrington formed the Harrington Family Business LLC, and bought Columbia Traders, a restaurant at 420 South Main Street in Joplin, Missouri. Daughter Laura Dudley is general manager, and daughter Cameo Gerdes, '96, is in charge of marketing. Sons-in-law Josh Dudley and Dirk Gerdes also help out.

Why they're different:

Cameo: "It's just a matter of trying to explain to people that we're not just a sandwich shop, and we're not just a coffee shop (the business also offers live music on Thursdays and free WiFi). We're willing to do anything. We're really trying to push the envelope of what people expect from this restaurant, so that we can be a lot more things to a lot more people."

Secret to success:

Laura: "We all have individual skills, and when you put them all together, it makes it work." (Laura was the 2008 Missouri Restaurant Association Restaurateur of the Year.)

Crystal: "It was nice that this came for Bob and me at this time in our lives. Everything was in the right place."

Family ties:

Cameo: "(The restaurant) becomes everything. Because we are a close family, when we spend time together, it always comes back to the restaurant. So, it's like how do you turn that off? Because we're always thinking about it."

Bob: "The rough spot that we've gone through is that everybody had to figure out where their place is, because we never did that when we started. We kind of all jumped in to do everything, and everybody's expectations were different. So, for the first month or so, we had some conflicts. But, we sat down and worked them out."

Laura: "The restaurant business is something you have to love to do. If you aren't 100 percent committed to this and this alone, it won't ever work because it takes everything you have."

Southern ties:

Cameo: "I absolutely loved my time at Southern; it was truly one of the best times that I had. I lived at home but spent 90 percent of my time on campus."

Cameo worked at Southern from 1999 to 2003 as an admissions counselor recruiter, and Bob is director of physical plant.

For more: Visit www.columbiatradersjoplin.com.

Have an entrepreneurial tale to tell? Send *Lion Tales* information to AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu or call 417-659-LION.

BALANCING ACT



**First
responders
juggle
work,
school,
marriage
and
saving
lives.**

In the past two months, Robert Huggard can count on one hand the number of hours he's been home. As a paramedic at Labette Health in Parsons, Kansas, Huggard knows the stress such work can have on home life.

"I am married but don't have any kids, which I think is a blessing," said Huggard, who completed his EMT-paramedic certification in 2009 at Missouri Southern. "I barely get to see my wife as it is."

Huggard's weekly schedule is a busy one, including 24 to 72 hour shifts of EMT work. Before finishing his coursework last May, 16 hours of his time included attending classes and commuting to Southern. On top of all that, Huggard sprinkled in clinicals during his free time.

"There are going to be days when your husband comes home from work and you can tell just by looking at him that he is in a mood. Just remember what he does and what he sometimes sees."

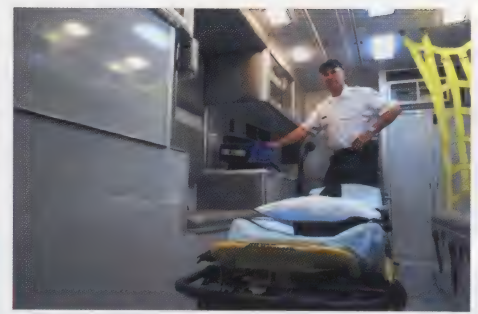
Krystal Huggard
Wife of paramedic Robert Huggard

"We just keep our eye on the prize," Huggard said before his graduation, referring to the extra stress from his classes. "We realize that some day it'll be over."

Huggard's wife, Krystal, gave advice for other spouses in her situation.

"There are going to be days when your husband comes home from work and you can tell just by looking at him that he is in a mood. Just remember what he does and what he sometimes sees," she said. "Be supportive and love your husband. If he knows that he has your support, it will make everything easier for everybody."

Rusty Tinney, administrator of Newton County Ambulance, completed his certification in 1984 at Southern and serves on an advisory board at the uni-



Facing page, Paramedic Robert Huggard works for Labette Health in Parsons, Kansas. Above left, Huggard and his wife, Krystal, take a break from their busy schedules at Labette Health's cafeteria. Top right, Huggard checks the equipment inside one of Labette Health's new ambulances. Above right, Huggard works with test dummy "Rescue Randy." — Photos by Jessica Schreindl, '10

versity. He can empathize with Huggard's hectic schedule. He and his wife, Sandra, '85, have four children. Tinney and his family know the stresses of the EMT field from his days of working as a flight paramedic.

"I'd work 24-hour shifts and then come home and be taking care of infant twins when my wife went to work," he said. "I may not have slept for 24 to 36 hours."

This busy schedule was "just the norm" for his family, and they had no choice but to make adjustments.

"If your shift comes around on a holiday, a birthday or whatever, you work it and have your holidays a different time," he said. "You just work around those things."

Unfortunately, not all EMS workers are able to balance work and home life successfully. In these instances, individuals like Clarke Cayton, crisis management director of Ozark Crisis Response, step in to offer support.

"Every discipline presents its own stressors, but the main issues that I seem to find in EMS have to do not necessarily with the traumatic stress, but just the cumulative stress of shift work," he said.

When this stress builds over time, it

For more

- EMS Magazine
www.emsresponder.com
- NAEMT
www.naemt.org
- RESPONDER LIFE
www.responderlife.com

may take just "that one call" for the act of balancing work and family to become too much, Cayton said. He and his team work to help EMS individuals learn to cope with this strain.

"We feel they just need the right motivation and the right access to tools to be able to make that (balancing work and family) happen," he said.

One of the points Cayton and his team focus on is that reacting to stress is natural.

"The main thing we can do is meet with them and encourage them that however their body and their mind and their emotions are reacting to the situation is completely normal," he said. "Maybe with a little education and the support of other peers ... all those things should mitigate themselves, but it will take time."

Cayton said the worst thing EMS workers can do is avoid help until they

are overtaken by the demands from both sides. In these instances, they "isolate themselves" to the point where they think it's necessary to give up either their job or their family.

"Most people think, 'Well, I can't be both. I'm either going to be an excellent paramedic or I'm going to be an excellent dad or husband,'" said Cayton. "So, they feel they can only channel their energy into one of those areas."

Though the demands of home life and work can be difficult, Cayton believes finding balance is the only way to be satisfied.

"I believe you can be an excellent paramedic and an excellent father," he said. "It's just a matter of being very disciplined, having priorities and at the end of the day, keeping that positive attitude."

For Tinney, the effects of EMS work have only made him appreciate his family more.

"The things that we see and the things that we do, it gives us a better appreciation for our families because we know it can end at any time," he said. "Because we're exposed to it every day, we know the time with our family is precious, and we just cherish that."

— Becky Husky, '10

* According to Responder Life, divorce rates for EMS workers can be as high as 84 percent.



Something for everyone

This place has it all: fitness, health, entertainment and shopping.





Red ribbon ceremonies marked the dedications of the MSSU Bookstore and the Beimdick Recreation Center in the newly renovated Billingsly Student Center. The bookstore opened in August, and the recreation center premiered in September, as did the new Willcoxon Health Center. With these additions, the campus gained a new source of Lion pride.

"MSSU has achieved the 'Wow' factor," said Darren Fullerton, '88, director of student life. "Missouri Southern has created an exciting and visually stunning gathering place for student, faculty, staff and alumni."

He points out an added plus for alumni. "The Beimdick Recreation Center is not only a facility to meet the recreational and fitness needs of alumni, it is also an avenue for alumni to interact with students at their university," Fullerton said. "In addition, this facility gives alumni an energetic and vibrant way to stay connected to MSSU."

The \$17-million project also includes the 150-seat Phelps Theatre and new meeting rooms with state-of-the-art multimedia capabilities.

"The entire facility represents a major step forward for Southern in serving our students," said Dr. Bruce Speck, the university's president. "Not only will students have access to a world-class health facility, but also they will have well-appointed spaces for meetings and other functions."

"The new facility moves us in the right direction of providing our students with a holistic environment for their success, both at the university and beyond."

For Alumni Association members, the rec center, pool and racquetball fee is \$360 and \$180 for spouse for one year. A pool-racquetball membership is only \$180 for members and \$180 for spouse, for one year. Monthly and semester memberships are also available. For more, call 417-625-9760.



Top left, Patrick McGriff, junior business marketing major, and Kayla Morris, senior health promotion and wellness major and fitness center supervisor, work out in the Beimdick Recreation Center. Far left, Anita Frieze, secretary in the MSSU Learning Center, walks on the suspension track during her lunch break. Center left, Darren Fullerton, '88, director of student life, and Leslie Willis, campus recreation director, take a timeout in the Phelps Theatre. Left, the center's elliptical machines overlook the open area south of the campus and the Joplin cityscape. Above, a ribbon cutting ceremony marked the opening of the MSSU Bookstore on August 6, 2009.

LION-HEARTED 2009

The late George S. Beimdick lived out his commitment to education through generous support over the years at both local and state levels. His efforts through the Carthage R-9 Foundation, the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, the Community Foundation of Southwest Missouri, the Crowder College Foundation, Missouri Southern State College Board of Regents-Trustees, and now Missouri Southern State University contributed to a brighter future for many.



George S. Beimdick

Because of his dedication to education and Southern, the namesake of the new recreation center was given the Lion-Hearted award this fall. His son, Stephen Beimdick, accepted the award on behalf of his father on September 26 at the Lion Pride Brunch.

Born March 23, 1913, in Carthage, Missouri, George S. Beimdick graduated from Carthage High School in 1931, received a bachelor of science in business administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1935, and was then commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He married Geraldine Hafner Buescher on September 18, 1935, in Columbia, Missouri.

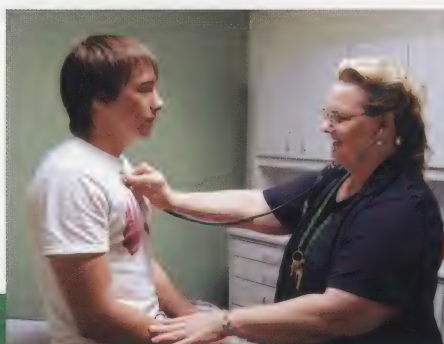
From 1935-37, Beimdick worked in St. Louis with the brokerage firm of Gatch Brothers, Jordan and McKinney. In 1937 he returned to Carthage to become the president of B-V Realty and Investment Company, a firm engaged in real estate, loans and insurance. In 1962 the insurance division of B-V Realty and Investment Company was separated and operated as Beimdick Insurance Agency, an independent insurance agency.

Beimdick served with the 103rd Infantry Division from 1942-46 in the European Theater of World War II. When the war ended, he returned to his business in Carthage and remained active in the Army Reserve until 1966. He was a 65-year member of the Carthage Rotary; served as directors for Central National Bank (now UMB Bank), Jasper County Savings and Loan (later First Security Savings and then Home Savings), Leggett & Platt Incorporated; and as president of the Carthage Chamber of Commerce.

He was also active in Grace Episcopal Church, and many other business and civic activities.



Top, Dylan Samuelson (left), freshman undeclared major, and Chase Bruner, sophomore undeclared major, take a break on one of the three basketball courts in the Beimdick Recreation Center. Above, Haley Ward (left) and Jessica Bussey, freshman dental hygiene majors, relax in the commons area outside the entrance to the new workout facility.



Top, Saungie Liburd, freshman medical technology major, checks in with Pamela Hosp, '80, secretary and receptionist for the Willcoxon Health Center. Above left, Jan Dipley, director of health services, administers a physical examination to Jacob Stewart, freshman biology major. Above right, Anita Singleton, part-time family practice nurse practitioner, prepares to run blood sample tests in the new health center's lab area. — Photos by Mike Gullett

LION-HEARTED 2009

With help from Dr. Robert L. and Dot Willcoxon, the Willcoxon Health Center became a reality this fall. The new on-campus clinic services the medical needs of Missouri



Dr. Robert and Dot Willcoxon

Southern students and employees. For their dedication to Missouri Southern, the Willcoxons were given the Lion-Hearted Award this fall.

A graduate of St. Louis University and Kansas University Medical School, Robert Willcoxon has maintained a private practice in general and vascular surgery in Joplin from 1973 to the present and served as director of trauma at Freeman Health System in Joplin from 1990-2009. He is a member of the Missouri State Medical Association and the Southwest Missouri Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. In the past he has served on the board of St. John's Regional Medical Center, Freeman Health System and the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce. He presently serves on the board of First State Bank, the Willcoxon Family Foundation, the Bramlage Family Foundation and Food-4-Less, Joplin and Springfield.

Dot Willcoxon graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor of science in secondary education. A former high school business teacher, she is a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church and is affiliated with Food-4-Less, Joplin and Springfield. She serves on the Freeman Foundation Board, Joplin Family Y Advisory Board, Pro Musica, vice president of the Joplin Public Library, president of the Bramlage Foundation, vice president of Lafayette House, Ozark Public TV for the Joplin Area, St. Peter's Church Planning Committee, and the Willcoxon Family Foundation.

In the past, Dot Willcoxon has served on many area nonprofit organizations that promote education and the arts as well as civic committees for the city of Joplin.

She was the winner of the Historical Museum's Rex Plumbum Award in 1996 and was Joplin Citizen of the Year in 2002.

In 2008, the Willcoxons received the Lifetime Achievement Award/Health Care Heroes Award from the Joplin Business Journal.

The Willcoxons have been married for 45 years and are the parents of four children.

BILLINGSLY STUDENT CENTER DEPARTMENTS

Lions' Den Food Court & University Food Service Office: Mike Wonderly, university food service director, 417-625-9546.

Student Activities: Jessica Pope, director of student activities, 417-625-9669.

MSSU Bookstore: Greg Needham, manager, 417-625-9508.

Beimdiek Recreation Center: Leslie Willis, campus recreation director. Includes gymnasium, weight and fitness areas, dance studios, locker rooms, wellness testing and the Phelps Theatre. Call 417-659-5455.

Campus Recreation Office: Leslie Willis, director; and Melanie Epperson, secretary, 417-625-9760. Includes rec center memberships, intramural sports, aquatics, wellness and fitness programs, and usage and rentals of Billingsly.

Willcoxon Health Center: Jan Dipley, director, 417-625-9323.

Student Services: Doug Carnahan, dean of students, 417-625-9531; Darren Fullerton, '88, director of student life, 417-625-3135; Christy Phillips, secretary, 417-625-9392. Area includes student services, residence life, student conduct, student life and student senate.

Campus Card Service Center: Chris Owens, manager, 417-659-5465.

Office Services: Brian Estes, copy and mailing services, 417-659-4493.

She's a Survivor

School of business secretary enjoys 10 years, cancer free.

As she walked into a wellness exhibit at Missouri Southern's health clinic, Becky Wiley, school of business secretary, found herself picking up a pendant for all the women who had breast cancer.

It was a sincere, heartfelt move on her part, but little did she know this little pendant would be such a significant part of her future.

Days later, at the age of 39, Wiley decided to go for her first mammogram; moments later she found out her right breast had a lump.

On that day in August 1999, Wiley made a promise to herself.

"I wear a pendant every day," said Wiley. "This is something I vowed to myself the day I found out. I promised to wear it

every day that I survive; it's just something I do."

According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, an estimated 200,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer each year, and 20 percent of those women won't survive the battle.

Wiley said support helped her get through treatments.

"When I found out, I was shocked; we all were," said James Gray, professor of management. "We put the money together for her to go get a

second opinion."

Gray knew rest would be important for Wiley.

"The school understood what Becky was going to be going through; they were able to set up a special room with a cot for her to go and relax," said Gray.

"The time clock and her being present

When she was first diagnosed, Becky Wiley became a chair for Relay for Life. Each year she survives, Wiley buys a Beanie Baby.

— Photo by Jim Quist, '09



just wasn't a concern."

Through the university's support, Gray believes Wiley handled her treatments well.

"I have a lot of respect for Becky; she has sure set an example for others," said Gray. "She is a much stronger person today, and she knows what it takes to get through a bump in the road and overcome it."

Wiley learned from the experience.

"Now I just really focus my life on running into others that are going through

cancer or have gone through cancer because that's when they really need the support," said Wiley.

"I feel like that's the purpose God gave me."

Wiley will go up to anybody who's going through cancer treatment.

"They need to talk," said Wiley. "They want to hear stories like mine, like 'Wow, I've made it 10 years.' I also just like to support them by answering those questions they have. It may just be a simple question like, when is my hair going to come back?"

Like when Wiley found out and received a pendant, she wants to help others with cancer. She carries extra pendants to give to others with the disease.

Breast cancer is the leading cancer found in women today, but it can be detected early by a yearly mammogram.

"I'm healthy and I see my doctor every year. If I see anything weird, I set up a six-month appointment," said Wiley. "Although, there's not a day that goes by that I don't think about it."

— Tosha Shanks, '09



The Lions prepare to play Southwest Baptist University on January 31, 2009. Each season, the team suits up in pink jerseys to raise awareness for breast cancer. — Photo by Justin Maskus

Lions look pretty in pink to shine spotlight on a deadly disease.

Missouri Southern will host its third Breast Cancer Awareness Night at the February 6 women's basketball game.

Each year the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Pink Zone raises breast cancer awareness.

"This is a yearly tradition in women's basketball nationwide," said Maryann Mitts, women's head basketball coach. "So basically, at Missouri Southern, we're just becoming involved in that."

At the past two events, basketball players were decked out in pink jerseys sponsored by Freeman Health System and St. John's Regional Medical Center. Pink could even be found on the referees, who

sported pink whistles. Proceeds came from the auctioned jerseys as well as donations and concessions.

Dr. Patsy Lipira, department head of kinesiology, is a breast cancer survivor who attended the first event.

"I spoke at halftime and brought my wig and everything," she said.

Team members also presented her with a plaque commemorating her battle with cancer.

For Lipira, the best part of the experience was being able to offer encouragement and hope to those in the audience.

"There are so many people affected by

breast cancer," she said. "So to take part in that is a good deal."

Southern will partner again this year with Freeman and St. John's, with proceeds donated to the American Cancer Society and the Hope 4 You Breast Cancer Foundation.

"It is our student-athletes' way of becoming very close to a situation that can have such a positive outcome," Mitts said. "If being a part of early detection raises the awareness of breast cancer screenings and self-exams, then our student-athletes have been involved in an enormous public service."

— Becky Husky, '10

Breast Cancer Awareness Night

- ▶ **When:** 5:30 p.m., February 6
- ▶ **Game:** Lions vs. Missouri Western
- ▶ **For more:** Call Kevin Greim at 417-625-3075

A full-page photograph of an elderly woman with short, wavy grey hair and glasses. She is wearing a bright pink long-sleeved button-down shirt and light blue trousers. She is standing on a grassy area in front of a large, dense evergreen tree. The title 'Lion Proud' is overlaid in large yellow serif font on the right side of the image.

Lion Proud

Former athletic director
leaves lasting legacy.



The 1970s was a time of advancement for sports among female college athletes. So when some young women approached a Missouri Southern instructor with a request, she was happy to help. With guidance and encouragement from Sallie Beard, the first Lady Lions basketball team took to the court in 1974, marking the beginning of women's athletics at Southern.

After 37 years at Missouri Southern, this trailblazer will now watch the Lions from the sidelines.

Sallie Beard, '72, retired as director of athletics in June. Though she has nearly four decades of memories, Beard said the everyday interaction during those years was the most fulfilling aspect.

"My career gave me many opportunities that I think were enlightening and broadened my horizons," Beard said. "The most rewarding part was the day-to-day contact with student athletes and students in general."

Throughout her Southern career, Beard took part in many facets of the athletic department. She began as an instructor and progressed to a coach and then women's athletics director. In 2001, Beard was named athletics director.

Patty Vavra, '80, head women's track and field and cross-country coach, has known Beard for 37 years. During that time, Vavra knew Beard as a teammate, instructor, and coach.

"She was exactly the right person at the right time for Missouri Southern,"

"She nearly single-handedly started the women's athletics program. I can't imagine how Missouri Southern women's athletics would have evolved without her."

Vavra said. "She nearly single-handedly started the women's athletics program. I can't imagine how Missouri Southern women's athletics would have evolved without her."

After helping to form the women's basketball team, Beard later aided in the creation of women's softball and tennis. MSSU women's athletics now encompasses six sports: basketball, cross-country, soccer, softball, track and field, and volleyball.

"I don't know that we looked upon it as breaking a stereotype or breaking a mold, but it was just an opportunity, and I think it's significant that it was a grassroots initiative," Beard said. "The young women are the ones who really get the credit for getting it started because they were willing to make the commitment."

Maryann Mitts, women's head basketball coach, originally knew Beard as an opposing coach when Mitts worked at Rockhurst University.

"I always remember her being very visible at the games, and as a young

female coach, it made a lasting impression on me to see a female hold such a powerful position in athletics that's so male dominated," she said.

Mitts came to Missouri Southern nine years ago and began working with Beard.

"I think she led by example. I think anytime you're a pioneer, you have to be out in front," Mitts said. "You have to be willing to sell yourself on an idea that may or may not come to fruition. She did not sit in the backdrop. She was a woman out in front, and I think that was one of her best qualities."

Though Beard takes pride in her involvement with women's athletics, she hopes her overall work will not be forgotten.

"From my perspective, my involvement in athletics was not limited to just women," she said.

"And I hope that in retrospect, when my career is reviewed, it will be that I was just a good athletics administrator, without any mention of gender one way or another."

With a much-deserved retirement ahead of her, Beard plans on doing some traveling. But, regardless of where she goes, she won't lose touch with the place she dedicated 37 years of her life.

"I certainly will be following Missouri Southern athletics, I think, forever — as long as there is breath in my body," Beard said.

— Becky Husky, '10

At left, Sallie Beard spent 37 years at Missouri Southern after graduating in 1972. Above left, Beard (right) and the 1979 tennis team. Above center, Beard coaches Patty Vavra in 1979, and Beard in a yearbook picture taken her first year as a Missouri Southern instructor in 1972. Above right, Beard (right) and the women's basketball team. The team was a first for the Lions in 1974, thanks to some dedicated players and Sallie Beard.

Stepping into the den

Southern provides perfect
blend of athletics and
academics for
Jared Bruggeman.

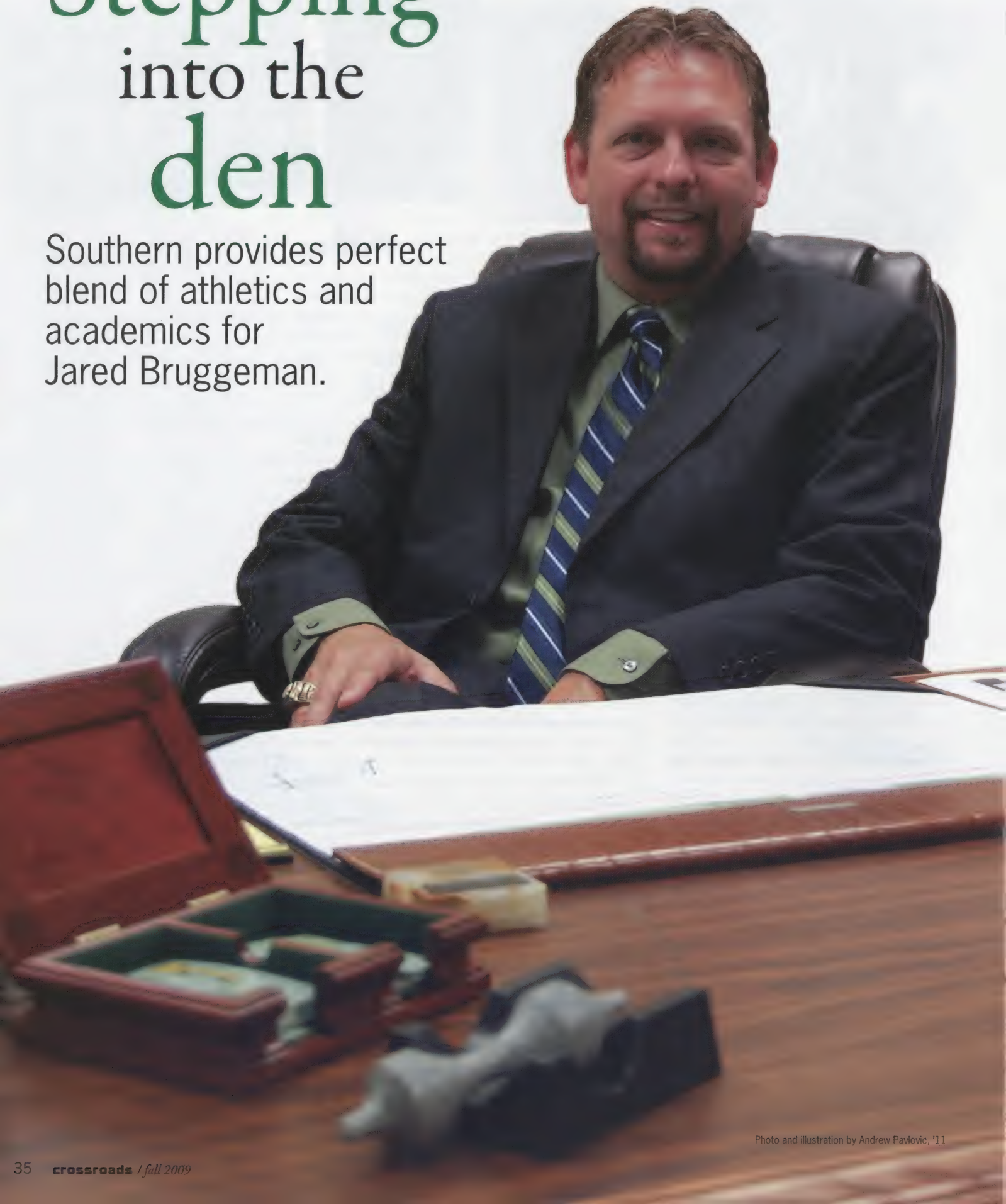


Photo and illustration by Andrew Pavlovic, '11



“What more could I ask for than later on in life to have a job in athletics at a university ...”

Growing up as an Army brat meant attending 12 different schools over the course of 12 years. But, Missouri Southern’s new athletics director has finally found a university to call home.

“I really like the Midwest,” said Jared Bruggeman, who was introduced as director in June. “There’s something about the Midwest.”

Along with their three children, Bruggeman and his wife, Maria, are settling into their Joplin home.

“She really likes this part of the country and wants to be in this area,” he said. “It’s a great place to raise your kids, and what more could you ask for? It’s about raising your kids up under the values and morals that you want to have, and this is conducive to that.”

Even though Bruggeman found himself in a new place every year during his childhood, playing sports allowed him to make friends more easily.

“The one thing that kept me going was that since I was decent in athletics, I got in quick,” he said.

From an early age, athletics became a theme throughout his life and career. Before accepting the position at Southern, Bruggeman was the associate director of athletics at Northern Arizona University. His prior jobs also involved athletics, from

Jared Bruggeman

► **Family:** Wife, Maria; children, Micah, 7; Logan, 5; and Reese, 1.

► **Education:** Bachelor’s degrees in natural science and in education with an emphasis in physics, 1994; master’s in educational leadership, University of North Dakota.

► **Professional:** Associate director of athletics, 2005-09, Northern Arizona University; assistant director of athletics for compliance and student life, 2001-05, and assistant track and field/cross-country coach, 1998-2001, University of North Dakota.

coaching high school track and field to being the student-athlete academic coordinator at the University of North Dakota. Education is essential to Bruggeman, who holds a degree in physics and has experience as a high school teacher.

“What more could I ask for than later on in life to have a job in athletics at a university, because education is important to me and athletics are important to me, and so this is the perfect situation to be in,” he said.

Bruggeman has already made an impression both on campus and off.

“I think one of the most impressive things about Jared is his ability to connect with the rest of the campus,” said Maryann Mitts, women’s head basketball coach. “He does not sit and wait for the other components of our campus to come to athletics — he takes athletics to the rest of the campus. He’s done a tremendous job of getting out of his office and reaching out to other people on this campus and in this community.”

Bruggeman’s goals include increasing community outreach by bringing more people to games, encouraging alumni involvement, and sending student-athletes to do volunteer work.

“Community outreach is not just going out in the community; sometimes it’s bringing the community to you,” he said. “Our athletes will be out more in the schools, we’ll be out more at special events and functions, and we’re hoping to also bring those people into our fold.”

Bruggeman’s efforts paint an exciting future for the department.

“I think he’s going to take Southern athletics to the next level,” said Randi Henderson, senior premed major. “I think he’s the one who could actually do it.”

— Becky Husky, '10

Photos, above left, Jared Bruggeman talks with former Lion and Denver Broncos player Rod Smith, '93, last August at SouthernFest. Center, Bruggeman came to Southern from Northern Arizona University. Right, Bruggeman congratulates Stephen Crane, '98, one of five former Lions inducted into the Missouri Southern Athletic Hall of Fame during the Homecoming '09 festivities. — Photos by Justin Maskus; Andrew Pavlovic, '11; and Mike Gullett



Left, Corey Shumate prepares to vault at a Missouri Southern meet last spring.

Center, Ciara Lipsey received All-American status in the pole vault.

— Photos by Mike Gullett

Right, Angie Turner goes up to bat for the Lions in the spring softball season.

— Photo by Justin Maskus

It's a wrap ...

Southern excels in spring events

Men's, Women's Track and Field

The men's and women's indoor track and field teams had three All-Americans, while outdoor track and field teams produced six All-Americans. Senior Phillip Horn was third in the heptathlon, and juniors Channell Lloyd and Ciara Lipsey placed eighth in the triple jump and pole vault, respectively, for All-American status.

In the outdoor campaign, Horn earned All-American honors in two events: decathlon and 100-meter hurdles. All-American honors also went to junior Emilie Mieseler, sixth in the hammer throw; junior Kimi Shank, second in the 10,000 meter; senior Kara Eckard, sixth in the steeplechase; and Lipsey picked up her second All-American of the year with an eighth place finish in the pole vault.

Softball

The Lions softball team started a new era with Bill Gray being named head coach in June 2008. Gray made an immediate impact as the Lions improved their win total by more than double. Southern had four players named honorable mention All-MIAA in junior Whitney Clute, sophomore Megan Roark and freshmen Brooke Hurley and Breanna Volkmann. Clute broke two Southern single-game records against Northwest Missouri State University, where she had three home runs, seven RBIs and 14 total bases. The latter two were school records,

while the three homers tied a record. She later tied a Southern single-season record with nine home runs.

Tennis

The tennis team fought through another tough MIAA campaign this year and picked up a pair of wins against Missouri Western State University, including a win over the Griffons in the MIAA Tournament.

Southern had its other win on the year, 6-3 against Evangel University, early in the season.

Due to budget constraints, Southern announced in April that the tennis program was being discontinued as a varsity sport.

Golf

The Lions had another successful year under coach Kevin Greim as they finished third in the 2009 MIAA Tournament, as well as the final overall standings, and were paced by All-MIAA performances from junior David Eddy and freshman Andy Hogenmiller. Junior Taylor Griffith was honorable mention All-MIAA. The Lions qualified for their seventh straight regional and traveled to Grand Rapids, Michigan, as the ninth seed in the tournament. Jamie Voegeli finished 12th in the tournament.

Baseball

The team continued its surge under second-year coach Bryce Darnell, '97, as the Lions not only had their first winning season since the 2003 season, but they had the program's first appearance in the MIAA Tournament since the 2002 season. Southern went 35-20, the most wins since 2001, when the team won 36. The Lions defeated University of Central Missouri in the opening round of the MIAA Tournament, 10-0, and junior pitcher CJ Maffei shut out the Mules twice in the season. It was the first time Central had been shut out twice in one year in more than 20 years. The Lions took three out of four games from then third ranked and eventual national runner-up Emporia State University at home. Eight Lions were named All-MIAA, including first teamers Maffei and sophomore third baseman Skyler Rawlins. The season ended on a high note when the Philadelphia Phillies took senior shortstop-pitcher Justin Beal in the 28th round of the Major League Baseball draft.

— Justin Maskus, Director, Sports Information

Left, junior David Eddy helped pace Lions golf with All-MIAA performances.

Center, junior CJ Maffei shut out Central Missouri University twice this season.

Right, Lauren Skimbo returns a volley in a Missouri Southern tennis match.

— Photos by Justin Maskus



Lions notebook



SouthernFest '09 attracts crowd at Downstream Casino Resort

The inaugural SouthernFest '09 proved to be a great success. The event was a benefit for the Missouri Southern Athletics Department.

More than 300 individuals attended the dinner auction on July 26 at Downstream Casino Resort, just west of Joplin, Missouri. More than \$40,000 was raised, and the location provided a great atmosphere for fans and alumni to enjoy each other's company. The auction included trips to New York and Las Vegas; a Busch Stadium seatback autographed by Bob Gibson, Ozzie Smith, Red Schoendienst, Lou Brock and Stan Musial; and other outstanding items.

The next day, 40 teams — 160 golfers — gathered at Eagle Creek Golf Club for two separate rounds of golf that saw Lions Hall of Famer and former Denver Broncos receiver Rod Smith, '93, join in the fun.

Make plans for SouthernFest '10 on July 29 and 30, 2010, at Downstream Casino Resort and Eagle Creek Golf Club.



Jim Frazier (left), Sallie Beard, '72, and Jared Bruggeman enjoying SouthernFest '09.

Student-athletes receive awards for sports, academic excellence

Phillip Horn, Kimi Shank and Nikki Llewellyn were named the 2008-09 Male and Female Athletes of the year, and Danielle DeVader, '09, received the E.O. and Virginia Humphrey Award.

Horn is a senior from Coffeyville, Kansas, and a transfer from Coffeyville Community College. In two years at Southern, Horn has placed himself on the map as one of the most dominant track athletes in the country. A criminal justice and psychology major, Horn has consistently

maintained a 3.0 grade-point average and his easy-going personality has made a team and fan favorite.

Shank and Llewellyn proved to be a tough decision for the committee this year, as both were more than qualified to be named the Female Athlete of the Year. In the end, both were deemed worthy of the title.

Llewellyn, a native of O'Fallon, Missouri, has been a four-year starter for the Lions soccer team. She led the Lions in points and goals each year at Southern and accounted for 50 percent of the team's offensive output this year. Llewellyn was named to the 2008 National Soccer Coaches Association Scholar All-America Team, one of approximately 60 athletes in all divisions and the NAIA.

Shank, a junior from Rolla, Missouri, can arguably be called one of the greatest distance runners to wear a Southern uniform. She had one of the most dominating cross-country seasons in Lions history this past year, where she was named the MIAA's Runner of the Week four times, and also excelled in the track season. A stellar student-athlete in the classroom, Shank carries a 4.0 GPA in health promotion and wellness.

DeVader has been someone who has personified what it means to be a true student-athlete. Before she enrolled at Missouri Southern, the Holton, Kansas, native had three different ACL tears and throughout the course of her five-year career as a Lion, amassed six surgeries on her knees. Despite circumstances that would have forced others to hang up their shoes and quit, DeVader pushed through and became one of the best 3-point shooters to play at Missouri Southern.

Whether it be as a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, Catholic Campus Ministry, Kinesiology Club or even serving as Mrs. Claus at the Lions annual Christmas Night with the Boys and Girls Club, DeVader has been the model student-athlete. She graduated with a degree in kinesiology and is working on her second degree at Southern, in psychology, all while maintaining a 3.69 GPA.

— Justin Maskus, Director, Sports Information



Vavra earns top honor

Missouri Southern women's track and field and cross-country coach Patty Vavra, '80, was named the 2009 MIAA Women's Outdoor Track and Field Coach of the Year.

Vavra, who led the Lions to their second-straight outdoor title, earned her eighth MIAA Coach of the Year award, winning four in cross-country and two in indoor track and field.

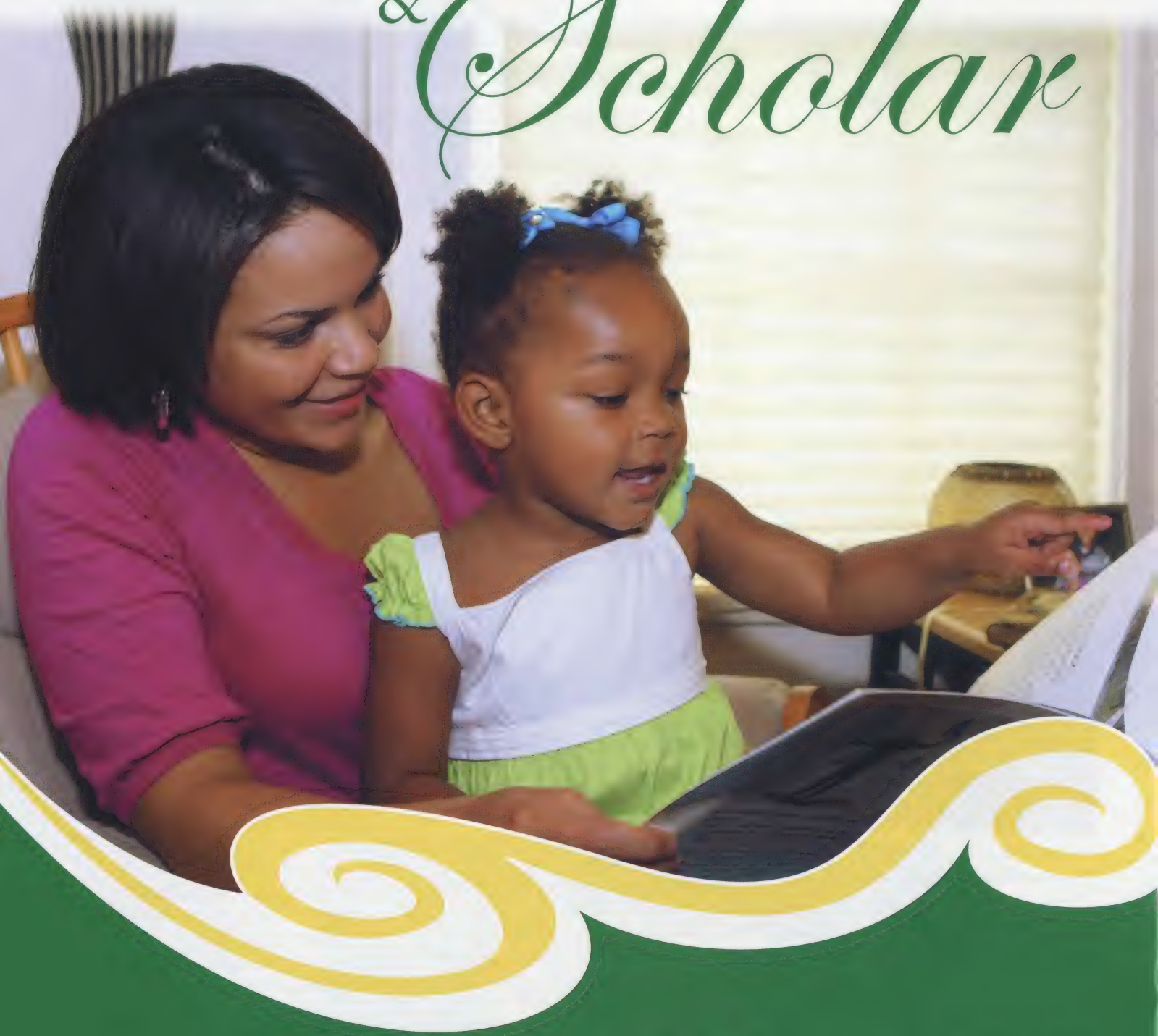
The Lions had three event champions, including junior Kimi Shank winning both the 5,000- and 10,000-meter races, and junior Emilie Mieseler in the hammer throw. Southern had multiple athletes score in seven events — including three events with three athletes earning points.

"It is an honor to be recognized by fellow coaches in the MIAA," Vavra said. "The credit goes to our athletes and the success they have attained this season. I also have to credit my outstanding staff of assistant coaches in Jamie Burnham, Jamie Tallman ('04) and Russell Ellis."


The team qualified six athletes for the 2009 NCAA Division II Outdoor National Championships held May 21-23 at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas, where the women placed 15th overall.

— Justin Maskus, Director, Sports Information

A Parent & Scholar



Single moms and dads earn degrees
with a little help along the way.



For some single parents, the idea of college is out of reach, but for Missouri Southern student Dola Flake, a scholarship placed the possibility at her fingertips.

Single parents have many obstacles to overcome to secure a degree, and the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Jasper and Newton Counties is making a college education possible for students like Flake.

"There were times that I considered putting school on hold in order to work more," said Flake, a senior psychology major. "The award given by the Single Parent Scholarship has given me enough extra income that postponing school is no longer a consideration."

The Single Parent Scholarship Fund began in the 1990s in northwest Arkansas. Soon after graduating from Southern with a degree in economic-finance, Bryan Vowels, '92, and his wife, Leticia, a 1993 Southern graduate, began working with Ralph Nesson, the program's founder.

"Ralph had the idea to start a scholarship to help single parents at or below the poverty level, who were career-oriented, in post-secondary education," said Bryan Vowels, now a financial adviser and branch manager of Wells Fargo Advisors in Joplin, Missouri. "The scholarship in Arkansas expanded from northwest Arkansas to across the state. Today, over \$5 million has been awarded to single parents throughout Arkansas."

In the spring of 2007, Vowels helped launch the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Jasper and Newton Counties through the United Way of Southwest Missouri.

The first five-year goal was set at \$150,000.

"Through the hard work of the United Way's staff and our advisory committee, we have raised over \$90,000 in the first two years for current and future scholarships," Vowels said.

He said the local program awarded 19 scholarships in the spring 2009 semester and 18 this fall, with \$500 going to each recipient.

"It is an honor and a blessing to be awarded the Single Parent Scholarship," Flake said.

"The feeling of having a support group and having enough resources to provide for my daughter, Jada, is priceless."

While the scholarship is for students

with a financial need, it can be used for more than tuition.

Books, utility bills, car maintenance, child care or other financial assistance that will allow the individual to pursue an education are also ways the program benefits recipients.

"The award motivates me by increasing my debt to society; I believe strongly that the more I take, the more I must give back," Flake said. "Receiving the Single Parent Scholarship is an inspiration because the United Way members have put faith in me."

While it is the United Way's goal to enable single parents to attain self-sufficiency through post-secondary education, the group would not be able to accomplish this without Vowels' support.

"Bryan came to the board of directors for the United Way, and they immediately jumped on the program," said Valerie Searcy, director of marketing for the United Way of Southwest Missouri. "Bryan has an amazing passion for the program, and it really helps drive the United Way in the direction they want to go with it."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, a college education yields higher earnings and lower unemployment rates.

Vowels said this scholarship provides a unique opportunity for single parents.

"It is a wonderful way to support hardworking individuals who are improving the quality of life for themselves and their family," he said.

— Tosha Shanks, '09

DID YOU KNOW?

► In 2008, the unemployment rate for individuals with a high school graduate was 5.7 percent but only 2.4 percent for individuals with a bachelor's degree.

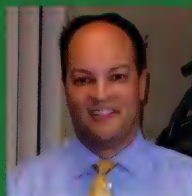
► The median weekly earnings for a bachelor's degreed individual was \$978 and only \$591 for a high school graduate.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

For More Information

Missouri Southern alumnus Bryan Vowels, '92, was instrumental in starting the Single Parent Scholarship Fund

of Jasper and Newton Counties. If you are interested in more information about the program, contact Vowels at 417-624-0600, or Mary Little of the Southwest Missouri United Way at 417-624-0153.



Photos, far left, Missouri Southern senior psychology major Dola Flake reads to her daughter, Jada. Flake is a recipient of an award through the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Jasper and Newton Counties. — Photo by Jim Quist, '09
Inset, Bryan Vowels, '92, helped establish the program for students who are single parents in southwest Missouri. — Photo by Emily Mergen, '11

Magic Formula

Southern instructor takes chemistry on the road to impress and inspire future scientists.



Above, Duquesne Elementary School students react to a chemistry magic show performed by Dr. Mel Mosher and Missouri Southern students. The students are (clockwise from top left) Taylor Wade, Kayli Clouse, Harris Allen, Don Archer and Brianna Hickey. Inset photo at right, Mosher talks to the students while Joseph Brown assists with the magic trick. — Photos by Jim Quist, '09

Dr. Mel Mosher dropped dry ice into a tube, producing not only white vapor, but oohs and ahhs from the 29 third-grade students who watched with wide eyes.

Several times each semester, Mosher loads up his chemistry equipment and some Missouri Southern students and travels to Joplin-area elementary and middle schools to perform magic shows. The professor of chemistry began entertaining while at Marshall University in West Virginia, where high school students were the focus.

"We would do demonstrations in chemistry and with computers," Mosher said. "We found that it was a very effective way of recruiting at that time."

Mosher continued the magic shows after coming to Southern in 1974, changing the focus from high school students.

"It still is a recruiting tool, in my opinion, not necessarily that we will get these kids coming to Southern, but that we are going to get them interested in science and keep them interested in science. That is one reason we are doing it is outreach," he said.

The shows are beneficial for the students and the university. Southern gets its name out into the community through the shows, but the benefits run deeper than self-promotion.

"The teachers were out hyping up the kids saying, 'You're going to go on to college, see what you can do if you take chemistry?' That is an outreach," Mosher said. "I would love all those kids to come to Southern, but more importantly, it's to keep their interest in the sciences."

The Southern Chemistry Club sends letters at the beginning of the school year, asking schools if they would like Mosher and the students to come perform.

Mosher pointed to a picture on his desk of several children with bright eyes

watching one of his shows.

"There are a couple of kids in each group that I feel like the Pied Piper; they really get excited," he said.

At the show for Duquesne Elementary on April 17, 2009, Mosher was accompanied by Lisa Berry, sophomore premed major, and Joseph Brown, freshman chemistry and math major. This show was the first for Berry, who said she hears Mosher talk about these performances.

"It was a lot of fun; I hope I can come back," Berry said.

Brown attended all six shows last spring and enjoyed the children's reactions to each trick.

"It's very entertaining to watch their faces; it's the coolest thing they've ever



seen," Brown said.

Liz Mascher, instructional coach for Duenweg, Duquesne and Kelsey Norman elementary schools, was the third-graders' teacher last spring.

She said students were engaged throughout the performance.

"Anytime they can see hands-on science experiments and get to participate, it peaks their interest in science," Mascher said. "It also gives them something to tie back to whenever we're teaching a lesson in the classroom."

Mosher sees the benefit of having the students do the tricks, as they are closer to the children's ages and can connect with them.

"They can see themselves better in that situation than maybe I can," Mosher said. "We always try to have at least a couple of students with us. They get a chance to go out and use some of the things they've learned in their classes in a more practical standpoint. The main reason they do it is because it's fun. They get the same thrill I do about seeing the little faces."

— Stephanie Howard, '09

DR. MEL MOSHER

Professional

Professor of chemistry, Missouri Southern State University, 1998-present; assistant professor of chemistry and assistant director of Regional Crime Laboratory, Missouri Southern, 1974-98; professor of chemistry, Marshall University, Huntington, Virginia, 1969-74; post-doctoral fellowship, University of Alberta-Edmonton, 1967-69.

Education

Bachelor of science in chemistry, University of Washington; master of science and Ph.D. in organic chemistry, University of Idaho.

Outreach

Each year, visits area schools to teach the importance of science and is accompanied by members of the Chemistry Club, the Missouri Southern American Chemical Society Student Affiliates Chapter. In 2008-09, the group presented nine chemical magic shows to five schools: Granby, Seneca and Joplin Memorial middle schools; Joplin Duquesne and Monett elementary schools.

Crowd Pleaser

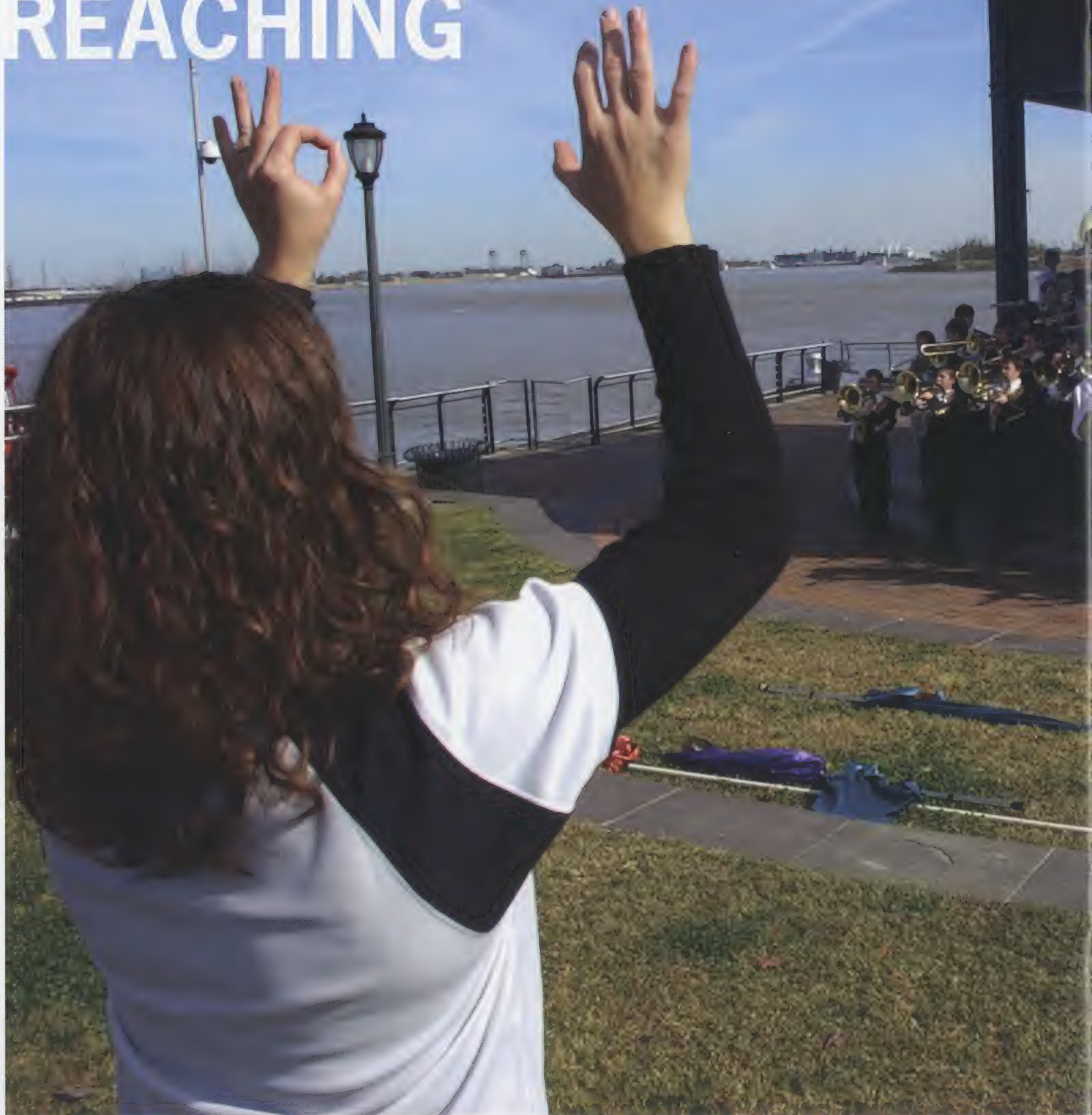
Magic show features 12-15 chemical demonstrations, but the youngsters' high point is making slime, which they take home.

Research

Mosher's MSSU students present research projects at regional meetings, the most recent at the October 2009 Midwest Regional American Chemical Society Meeting in Iowa City, Iowa.

"It's very entertaining to watch their faces; it's the coolest thing they've ever seen."

HIGHER REACHING





Missouri Southern alumna Elizabeth Rogers directs the Neosho High School band at one of the stand-and-play performances along the Mississippi River in New Orleans. The Missouri band received top honors at the January 2009 Sugar Bowl competition. — All photos by Rick Rogers, '98

Former drum major transforms band and guides the musicians to a sweet reward.

In September 2008, a group of Neosho High School students stood outside the meeting room awaiting approval from the Neosho R-5 School District Board. They held a big sign that said, "Send us to the Sugar Bowl —PLEASE!" Once the board voted and approved the trip, the students jumped and cheered.

The board's approval made it possible for the 115-member Neosho, Missouri, band to perform in front of 60,000 fans January 2, 2009, at the 75th annual Allstate Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. Elizabeth Rogers, a 1998 Missouri Southern graduate and former drum major, led the band to national honors.

This fall, she began her fourth year as director of bands in the Neosho R-5 School District, and her experience has taken the students to new heights.

As the band won competitions in the 2007-2008 school year, the performances attracted national attention. Rogers received a call at the end of August 2008 about the Sugar Bowl and was in disbelief.

"They called us," she said.

Amy Ursenbach, director of special events with Bowl Games of America, made the call.

"The group was referred to us ... we contacted her initially," Ursenbach said. "We work off referral lists."

Ursenbach said her office receives a referral list about twice a year, usually in January and June. Rogers was excited and nervous; she knew this would be a huge undertaking and all on her shoulders.

"I think she was one part surprised and one part honored," said her husband, Rick Rogers, '98, publisher of the Neosho Daily News and regional manager with Gate-House Media Inc.

The Neosho band had three months to prepare.

"The minute they found out, they started working right away," Rick said.

He said his wife worked on details for the Sugar Bowl performance during Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christ-



The Neosho band performs with the mass band during the Sugar Bowl halftime show on January 2, 2009, in New Orleans.

mas day in 2008. The band also had to raise more than \$103,000.

"We did car washes, washed windows, sold candy bars, sold pizzas, raked leaves," Elizabeth said.

In the end, the group raised the \$103,000 plus enough for each student to have extra spending money.

Rogers is in her 12th year of teaching and instructs grades six through 12. She said watching the students' progress is neat.

"She definitely loves what she does. She has passion for music and passion for her students," Rick said.

Transforming the Neosho band wasn't

easy. When Elizabeth took over as director of bands in 2006 at Neosho High School, she succeeded a well-respected director. Some band members decided not to return. Still, the band was in good shape, and her goal was to take it to a new level.

She said band members were not familiar with marching band competitions. She hoped to change that.

"They got dead last in everything," said Elizabeth of the high school's first year of competition.

Perseverance paid off with the trip to the Sugar Bowl.

"Reaching higher" was the theme for her

students in 2008-09, and it proved to be a positive motivator.

At the Sugar Bowl, the band placed first in class AA and all caption awards, which included: best music, best marching, best percussion, best color guard, best drum majors and best general effect.

"I am proud of all of the awards, but I think sweeping our class was the best feeling. We went to New Orleans with something to prove, and we did it," said Elizabeth, who plans to keep helping her students improve as musicians and individuals.

— Samantha Sonis, '09



Rogers accepts one of several first-place awards for the band at the Sugar Bowl competition.

ELIZABETH ROGERS

Professional

Is in her fourth year as director of bands for Neosho R-5 School District, where she has taught for eight years; taught music for three years at Carl Junction R-1 School District before going to Neosho, Missouri.

Education

Bachelor of science in music education, Missouri Southern State University, 1998; Lion Pride Marching Band drum major for five years.

Personal

Husband: Rick Rogers, '98
Children: Quinette (9), Rachel (6)

LIVING PORTRAITS

Art & service go hand-in-hand for Southern instructor.



For several summers, Josie Mai left the comforts of the United States for an unlikely vacation spot — Kenya.

She and fellow volunteers spent the three-week trip building fences, feeding and playing with children, or distributing food. The most important thing to Mai was, through the organization Soulfari Kenya, they served people across the world.

Soulfari Kenya was founded in 2006 as a nonprofit organization in the state of Kansas. Unfortunately, due to strains on time and the poor economy, the organization has dissolved, but Mai hopes to continue art projects in Kenya. The mission of Soulfari Kenya was to provide hands-on service opportunities to volunteers, in hopes of educating and connecting Americans with Kenyans. Kenya became the focus country because of relationships Mai had formed through previous trips.

To Mai, serving in Kenya allowed her family connection to deepen and serve the people of Kenya. The consistency that Soulfari Kenya brought to Mai's life was a first-time experience.

"I've never gone deep in a place before," Mai said.

"So I'm seeing the benefits of building trust relationships, building (actual) buildings in a place and not just popping in."

During her high school years, Mai was sensitive to Nelson Mandela's cause and the apartheid issues in South Africa. This continued through college, when she knew she wanted to go to Africa.

In 1995, Mai took a trip with Habitat for Humanity to Uganda and Kenya for two months. The next year Mai went back to those countries, this time taking her sister, Sarah Were. After this trip, Mai fell in love with Africa, as did her sister, who married Julius Were, of Kenya.

Mai and the Weres took groups to Kenya for 10 years following the 1995 trip before formally organizing into Soulfari Kenya.

The same year Soulfari Kenya was founded, Mai began face.africa, a program that combined her love of the arts and service to the people of Kenya. Mai's idea developed from a fellow artist in Wisconsin.

During a trip to Kenya Mai took photos and interviewed 60 young girls. After returning home, she recruited every artist she knew to do a portrait of one girl based upon the photo and interview. The next year she returned those portraits to the girls.

"You know, Kenyan's are very ceremonial," Mai said. "It's an honor. It's a big deal. And then they get to keep this original work of art for the rest of their lives, and they know that somebody across the world has spent time thinking about them, looking at them. And it's a gift. No, it's not food, no it's not school fees, but it's something."

Betsy Cooper, a 2008 graduate of Missouri Southern's art program, participated in the face.africa project.

"I had a little girl named Mechelle. I loved her," Cooper said. "I painted her portrait in watercolor, and after a few months, Josie took all the finished pictures back with her to Africa. Before I knew it, I got an encouraging letter from my girl thanking me for the wonderful present. I carried it around with me for a year until I finally put it away. It is amazing how children can be so grateful for something so little to us."

All photos courtesy of Josie Mai from the Kenyan service project, face.africa.

— Stephanie Howard, '09

Josie Mai

MSSU assistant professor of art since 2005

Hometown

Kansas City, Kansas

Education

Bachelor's in art education, University of Kansas; master of fine arts, Parsons The New School for Design, New York City



Mike Kennedy, assistant professor of biology and environmental health, talks to a student at Missouri Southern's Earth Day activities on April 22, 2009.

GO GREEN...

Southern's signature color takes on new meaning as recycling grant helps campus promote a healthy environment.



Above, effects of cleaners were displayed at the event. Right, Evelyn Hardy (left), of Fox Farm Whole Foods, and Madison Poiry, senior psychology major, display natural items.



Convenient and disposable describes a lot these days — like the to-go coffee grabbed for breakfast, or the soda can and water bottle used during lunch. They're bought for a quick drink and then thrown into the garbage just as quickly. But once they're put out on the curb, those disposables just don't disappear. In fact, that water bottle will probably end up in the ground somewhere.

In America, an estimated 56 tons of trash are created each year per person. According to the Clean Air Council, 70 percent of all trash is buried in landfills.

With its new recycling program, Missouri Southern is determined to help reduce those numbers.

"This is the future of the planet," said Mike Kennedy, assistant professor of biology and environmental health.

"Maybe not this year, maybe not in 10 years, but if you're planning to have kids, then what are

we going to give them?"

The Missouri Southern recycling program began in fall 2008, when a proposal was written for a state grant offered twice each year.

The \$10,000 grant became available in April 2009 and will help fund the campus recycling endeavors.

"It's got to be part of the answer, and we've got to get our hands around it. We've got to start," Kennedy said.

Individuals like Dr. Steve Smith, associate professor of social science, also work to promote sustainability practices on campus.

This includes landscaping and ensuring that new buildings are efficient.

"A lot of it is just a certain day-to-day consciousness kind of thing," Smith said, "and seeing sustainability as a long-term benefit to the students, faculty, staff and alumni of the institution, as well as the larger community."

The MSSU Sustainability Committee has several plans for the future, such as food composting on campus and teaming up with area businesses.

"We are looking at working with other local institutions, including Freeman (Health System). So, this is something we hope will be a long-term community building process," Smith said.

Aside from being the "right thing to do," recycling and sustainability acts also have economic benefits for Southern.

"You may not make any money, but you can save disposal costs. You can save the environment, and you can save at-

titudes," Kennedy said.

Smith said there has been tremendous support from the administration, but he and Kennedy agree encouragement must come from another source: the students.

"It's got to be a student-run program; it can't be a faculty-driven program," Kennedy said. "If the faculty's the driving force behind it, then for the students it's

like another lecture."

Several student organizations are active with the project, including the Biology Club, Environmental Health Club and Citizens of the World. These groups have helped to

disperse recycle bins around campus, but the more difficult task

is getting people to care.

"With proper education and motivation, we can get people to realize that the Earth's resources are finite and that each person has to take individual responsibility to preserve them," said Olga Bulgurova, senior biology and premed major and vice president of Citizens of the World.

"The more people take the initiative and get interested, the sooner our state government will come up with a plan. We have to start somewhere."

Those who want to help can do so every day by adopting basic conservation practices, Smith said. Turning off computers, printers and lights helps save energy.

"There are so many little adjustments we can make to our daily routines that we wouldn't even notice after a few days, but that could add up to make a difference," Bulgurova said.

With the new recycle bins all over campus, there's now another place to throw those old coffee cups and soda cans, rather than into a landfill.

Missouri Southern can look forward to a greener future, with support from all sides.

"I'm not just optimistic, I'm confident this is going to go. We just need to get the ball rolling," Kennedy said. "The students are ready."

— Becky Husky, '10



Trash facts

► Only two man-made structures on Earth are large enough to be seen from outer space: The Great Wall of China and the Fresh Kills Landfill in New York.

► As of 1992, 14 billion pounds of trash were dumped into the ocean annually around the world.

► Every day, the United States throws away enough trash to fill 63,000 garbage trucks.

► The average American uses 650 pounds of paper a year.

► Only about one-tenth of all solid garbage in the United States is recycled.

► Every year, we fill enough garbage trucks to form a line that would stretch from the Earth, halfway to the moon.

► Throwing away one aluminum can wastes as much energy as if that can were half full of gasoline.

Source: Clean Air Council.


For more, go to www.cleanair.org

Sustainable future

Information on Missouri Southern's sustainability program can be found at www.mssu.edu/socsci/sust/sustindex.htm.

Committee members include:

Nii Abrahams (economics/finance)
Dorothy Bay (biology)
Mike Fletcher (environmental health)
Robert Harrington (physical plant)
John Knapp (geoscience)
John Messick (biology)
Steve Smith (geography)
Carla Walter (marketing)
Scott Wells (biology)



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Mission Hills Mansion Restoration Pledge Card

You can pay by check or credit card.

Personalized Brick Order Form

The 4 x 8 brick can be imprinted with three lines of up to 15 characters per line (including spaces). The 8 x 8 brick can be imprinted with six lines of up to 15 characters per line (including spaces) or one company logo. Please print (with capital letters) the name or message you would like on your brick in the boxes below, or attach a black and white camera ready corporate logo to the form. MSSU Alumni Association reserves the right to choose type size and arrange words to maintain balance and improve legibility.

Brick #1 Or Plaque Designation:

Brick #2:

Brick #3:

Brick #4:

Corporate Brick Order:

Leave your mark at Missouri Southern State University in a positive way through the purchase of a brick or by committing to the Society Giving Club, in support of the Mission Hills Mansion restoration project.

I/we wish to support the MSSU Mission Hills Mansion Restoration Project to help restore the Mansion. I pledge a tax deductible gift in the amount of:

Society Giving Club

- () \$5,000 to \$9,999
() \$1,000 to \$4,999
() \$500 to \$999

Presidential Gold Society
Presidential Green Society
Young Alumni President's Society
(graduated 10 years or less)

This gift is payable as follows:

- () One Installment () Two Annual Installments
() Three Annual Installments () Four Annual Installments
() Five Annual Installments

Restoration Brick Program

I wish to donate the following tax-deductible:

- () \$500 8 x 8 Paver
() \$100 4 x 8 Paver

Six Lines, 15 Characters Each Line
or Company Logo
Three Lines, 15 Characters Each Line

Payment method:

- () Check () Credit Card Credit Card: () VISA () MasterCard () Discover

Card Number: _____

Name on Card: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security #: _____ (three digits on back of card)

Please fill out all fields:

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

____ Please send me ____ cards to acknowledge my gift to forward to my honorees.

Have something
you want to
share with your
fellow alumni?
Send us your
information for
the spring issue.

Missouri Southern Alumni Association
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or via e-mail, AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu
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Park honors Dennis Weaver

Eagle sculpture welcomes visitors to Ridgway, Colo.

Dennis Weaver Memorial Park is dedicated to the late actor and Missouri Southern alumnus Dennis Weaver, '43. The park was deeded to the people of Ridgway, Colorado, and is based on the design of the Ute circle of life.

The park consists of a towering monument of dry-stacked boulders crowned by a bronze American bald eagle. This eagle boasts a wingspan of more than 20 feet and weighs 2,800 pounds. Dedicated August 25, 2007, the sculpture, by Wyoming artist

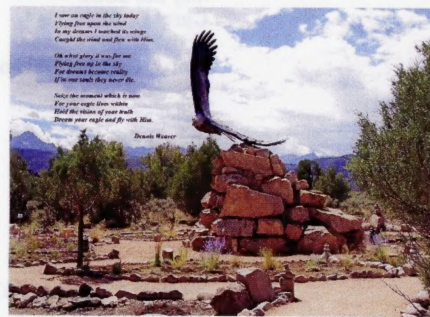
Vic Payne, was donated to the Weaver family by Gerrye and Bill Widger of Ridgway.

Below the eagle shrine is a natural grassland park on the bank of the Uncompaghe River.

Visitors can picnic, meditate or kick back with a good book and enjoy nature's surroundings.

For information, restrictions and directions, visit the Dennis

Weaver Memorial Park Web site at www.dennisweaver.com/memorial_park/index.html.



CLASSNOTES

19**90** **Tim Ricke**, '90, is a representative for Mutual of Omaha.

19**92** **Maria C. Curry**, '92 and '97, is music director at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; teaches music and leads chapel for the Trinity Episcopal Day School; and is a freelance musician for the TenAceMuseum.

19**93** **Rod Smith**, '93, former Denver Bronco, was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame this past year.

19**94** **David Burnett**, '94, holds a sales position at Cardinal Health.

19**97** **Deren Konman**, '97, is acting directing attorney for the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation in his home state of Chuuk within the Federated States of Micronesia. Prior to that, he was a staff attorney for the Office of the Federated States of Micronesia Public Defender.

19**99** **Jeff Billington**, '99, was named communications director for U.S. Rep. Laura Richardson (D-California) in September 2009, and will serve as the primary

media and communications staff member in Richardson's Washington, D.C., office.

20**00** **Angela Copeland Whitley**, '00, is the quality assurance auditor for The Independent Living Center in Joplin, Missouri.

20**03** **Nicola Stone Higgs**, '03, is a fourth-grade teacher at Diamond Elementary School in Diamond, Missouri.

20**05** **Michelle Brenner Ramirez**, '05, is a senior cost analyst for Flint Hills Resources.

20**07** **Allen Barbre**, '07, plays the right tackle position for the Green Bay Packers this season.

Tracy Hass Cordova, '07, is the coordinator of PEO relations at Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri.

20**09** **Whitney Warren**, '09, is the advertising account executive for the Joplin Tri-State Business Journal.

— Reports from the MSSU Alumni Association office

JOPLIN JUNIOR COLLEGE

Darius D.L. Bell
March 20, 2009
Betty Cochran Berry
March 19, 2009
Donald L. Cope
June 24, 2009
Jack Cunningham
June 30, 2009
Marguerite Frkovich
February 11, 2009
Sondra J. Gamble
March 31, 2009
Marsha Gross
July 25, 2009
Leon Harding
March 21, 2009
Anne Hogan
April 24, 2009
Russell F. Holden
April 1, 2009
Alfred A. Kolkemeyer
April 4, 2009
Jack Parker
March 23, 2009
Vera Eileen (Sill) Perkins
July 13, 2009
Ralph L. Rader Sr., '39
February 9, 2009
Maxine Vandergriff
July 2, 2009

1960s

Marilyn A. Herrin, '67
July 14, 2009

1970s

Billie L. Hallam, '71
June 01, 2009
Patricia R. Ross, '78
August 05, 2009

1980s

Lois M. Rogers, '81
July 8, 2009
Jeffrey Scott Davis, '83
May 22, 2009
Carol C. Miller, '84
April 22, 2009
Mary "Carolyn" Wilson, '86
March 26, 2009
Kelly Price, '85
August 29, 2009
Charlotte Scott, '85
September 5, 2009

1990s

Virginia L. Shaver, '97
September 17, 2009
Christa Voss, '99
June 09, 2009

2000s

Deidra Egelston Bradley, '01
June 04, 2009
Linda Gilbert, '08,
June 04, 2009

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Charliene Aldridge (MSSU)
June 10, 2009
Joyce M. (Huff) Archer (MSSU)
August 05, 2009
Linda J. (McLaughlin) Baker (MSSU)
April 6, 2009
John Chew Jr.
September 28, 2009
Gary L. Crouch (MSSU)
May 9, 2009
Joe H. Dugan
April 6, 2009
Dorothy Sue Hall Elliott (MSSU)
March 10, 2009
James M. Harlan (MSSU)
June 16, 2009
Ray Macy
September 19, 2009
Patricia M. McClelen (MSSC)
June 27, 2009
Larry A. Peterson
October 4, 2009
Michael B. Powell
September 28, 2009
Thomas W. Reynolds Sr. (MSSU)
April 23, 2009
Hilda Elizabeth (Smith) Richardson (MSSC)
April 13, 2009
Ruby M. Steele (MSSC)
August 8, 2009
Chad Lynn Webb (MSSU)
June 11, 2009

Missouri Southern remembers faculty, staff, friends

FACULTY AND STAFF

Curt Betebenner, 57, director of the Missouri Southern Foundation from April 1999 to October 2009, died suddenly on November 13, 2009, in Joplin, Missouri. A memorial service was held November 21, 2009, in Webb City, Missouri.

Before being named director of the foundation, Betebenner joined Southern at the age of 46 as assistant foundation director in December 1998.

He graduated from Missouri Southern in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He later earned a master's degree in business administration from Troy State University in Troy, Alabama.

Betebenner retired from the U.S. Air Force as a colonel and served with NATO in Naples, Italy, as chief of air defense for the Southern Region. After retiring from the Air Force, he became a commercial pilot and also worked in public school systems.

As a member of a longtime Jasper

County family, Betebenner was reared in Alba, Missouri, and attended Alba and Webb City schools.

His wife, Elizabeth, has been a full-time and adjunct faculty member in the Missouri Southern School of Education and is a speech pathologist. She survives at the home.

Jim Johnson was the first person to lead the Lions football program, when Missouri Southern became a four-year institution in 1968. Johnson, 68, died July 28, 2009.

A 1962 graduate of the University of Missouri, Johnson played two seasons with the Buffalo Bills and came to Southern in 1967.

From Southern, Johnson had stints at Drake, Indiana and Notre Dame, before two different stints in the United States Football League with Oklahoma and Jacksonville.

He landed his first NFL coaching assignment with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1986. He then moved to Indianapolis and

Seattle, before settling in as the defensive coordinator with the Eagles in 1999.

A veteran of 22 NFL seasons as a coach, Johnson's defense in Philadelphia has ranked as one of the best in the league over the past decade as he was widely regarded as one of the top defensive minds in football.

Dr. Joseph Patrick "Joe" Lambert, 71, died March 20, 2009. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers; and a nephew.

Lambert attended Monticello schools and received his bachelor's and master's degrees in English at Mississippi College. He earned his Ph.D. in English from Auburn University in 1970. He taught several years at Gulf Coast Junior College before joining the English faculty at Missouri Southern State University from 1970-99. He was department head from 1971-79, director of the Southern Writing Program for seven years and a member of the Faculty Senate for three years, including a term as president.

He co-founded The Winged Lion, a joint publication of the English and art departments at Southern, and served as its faculty sponsor for many years. The magazine won numerous awards under his leadership.

Lambert was a member of the American Association of University Professors, Midwest Philological Association, National Council of Teachers of English and Association of Departments of English. His poetry and short stories have appeared in literary reviews.

Georgia J. Mann, age 64, of Joplin, Missouri, died July 3, 2009.

Mann was born November 29, 1944, in Peoria, Illinois, the daughter of the late George and Ina Mann. She was a member of the Jehovah's Witness Congregation.

Mann worked for the past 12 years for Missouri Southern State University.

Dorothy Kolkmeier Putjenter died May 19, 2009, in Joplin, Missouri.

Born October 17, 1925, south of Joplin, she was the daughter of the late Orvil and Myrl Trenary Cale.

Dorothy attended Lake Hill Grade School, Joplin High School and graduated from Grove High School. A graduate of Joplin Business College, she served three different presidents of MSSU from 1972-89.

She married Gerald Putjenter on October 14, 1995, and they moved to McAllen, Texas, for nine years, returning to Joplin in 2004. He preceded her in death on December 5, 2006.

She was a 4-H Leader, member of Buttons & Bows and past-president of Joplin Soroptimist Club. She became a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in 1991, where she volunteered as a helper for the preschool class until moving to Texas.

Billie 'Bill' Martin Williams, 80, of Joplin, Missouri, died May 20, 2009. He was born January 30, 1929, in Osawatimie, Kansas.

Williams attended school in Neodesha, Kansas, and participated in football, basketball, baseball and track. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps after graduating from high school in 1946.

In August of 1948, he returned to southeast Kansas, to pursue a degree in

education at the Kansas State Teachers College of Pittsburg. In 1951, he began as a teacher and coach at El Dorado Springs (Missouri) High School before joining the Prudential Insurance Company in 1956 for a 34-year career. During retirement, Williams was volunteer pole-vault coach at Missouri Southern State University, where he developed three national champions, 10 All-Americans, several MIAA champions and medalists, and many high school state champions and medalists in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

He was a longtime member St. Mary's Church in Joplin and was an avid KU, MSSU and Joplin Eagles fan.

C. Blake Wolf, age 53, died August 28, 2009. Wolf was born December 1, 1955, in Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, to Robert Wolf and the late Grace Helen Blake Wolf and lived in the Joplin area most of his life.

He graduated from Joplin Memorial High School in 1974, where he was active in sports, speech and debate. Wolf received his bachelor of science degree from Missouri Southern State University and his law degree from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, in 1986. Wolf was employed by the city of Joplin as a police officer for seven years.

For the past 19 years, Wolf was professor of criminal justice at MSSU. He previously served as head of the MSSU Criminal Justice Department and the Law Enforcement Academy. He was the assistant prosecuting attorney for Jasper County since 1986.

Wolf volunteered with the YMCA as a coach for youth T-ball, soccer and basketball.

In his youth, he was active in the Boy Scouts of America, where he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and served on the parish council.

He married Paula Hardy in February 1991. She survives at the home.

FRIENDS

Russell Finley Holden, 89, died April 1, 2009. He was born November 24, 1919, in Joplin, Missouri, and attended Joplin schools, graduating from Joplin High School in 1937 and Joplin Junior Col-

lege in 1940. During his school years, he played all types of drums in the band and orchestra. He was married to Norma Jacqueline Butler for 66 years before her death in 2007.

Holden began his job at the Joplin Post Office in 1942 and returned to a position there after his time in the Army during World War II.

He took early retirement from the Post Office in 1976 and went to work at what was later called Joplin Printing Company.

Holden served on the board and other committees of First Community Church, member of the American Legion, Joplin Kiwanis Club, and served on the board of Jazz in Joplin.

Holden organized the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps, in existence from 1947-57. From 1955-62, he played the tympani in the Joplin City Symphony. From 1958-68, he helped with the Top Hatters, Joplin High School's girls' drum and bugle corps.

He became the No. 1 fan of the Missouri Southern State University marching band and the jazz orchestra, attending most practices and all performances.

Virginia Allene Sandy, age 95, of Airport Village, Missouri, died April 26, 2009. Sandy was born August 5, 1913, near Jasper, Missouri, and had lived in Airport Village since 1954.

She was a 1931 graduate of Webb City High School and received her master's in education from Pittsburg State University in 1954.

She retired in 1977 as a teacher with the Joplin R-8 School District, and she had also taught school in Webb City, Carl Junction and other schools in Jasper and Newton counties. She was a former member of the National Education Association and the Joplin Community Teacher's Association.

She volunteered at the Joplin Public Library and was interested in genealogy and was a member of the First Community Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Oliver V. Sandy, in 1992.

This Memoriam listing and obituaries are current as of October 1, 2009. For any additions to the Memoriam page in the next issue, please send an e-mail with your information to AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu or call 417-659-LION.

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